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PART LII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

101

August 1880.

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ERRATA.

Page 46. No. 64. The date should be August 5.
„ 53. No. 79, line 1, for "No. 404" read "No. 414."
„ 59. No. 94, line 1, for "No. 449" read "No. 451."
„ 164. No. 272 should have been Telegram No. 127, and No. 273 Telegram No. 126.
„ 231. No. 411. The private number should be "399" instead of "339."
„ 244. No. 454, line 2, for "No. 259" read "No. 529."
„ 247. No. 467, line 1, for "No. 482" read "No. 432."
„ 253. No. 485. A foot-note should have been appended to this telegram, viz.: "The telegrams referred to are inclosed in Nos. 472 and 473."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LII.

No. 1.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July* 31, 1880, 5 P.M.

TURKISH Government has instructed Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to complain to Greek Government that Prefects of Larissa and Surpi are distributing printed papers on Turkish territory announcing [group wrong] cession of Thessaly to Greece, that the inhabitants are absolved from allegiance to the Sultan.

M. Tricoupi has assured Tewfik Bey that if such proceedings have taken place they would be highly disapproved, and are quite contrary to the wishes of the Government, whose obvious interest it is to do nothing which could give rise to complications or a conflict between the two countries.

No. 2.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 354.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1880.

WE have not received any recommendation from Mr. Goschen of a note on Montenegrin question other than the collective note to which the Powers have all given their consent. The intention of the Porte is apparently to avoid any naval demonstration, or the proposal of one, by immediately accepting the Dulcigno proposal. We think it better to go on with the collective note, which only contemplates a demonstration in the event of the Porte declaring its continued adherence to the April Convention, and not carrying it out in three weeks.

No. 3.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 1, 1 P.M.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August* 1, 1880, 11 A.M.

M. DE FREYCINET telegraphed yesterday to French Ambassador at Constantinople to sign collective note to the Porte about Montenegrin frontier.

No. 4.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 1, 3 P.M.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 1, 1880, 11·10 A.M.

I HAVE talked with some of my colleagues about Albania; they do not like notion of an adjournment. On the other hand, they do not seem hostile to the largeness of Albania, but their Governments are, I think, unwilling to commit themselves. I think utmost that can be obtained will be some general expressions in the Report, recognizing that Albanian nationality exists, and proposing a division of Albania into four Governments which might ultimately be [group wrong; ? merged] into one. The Mirdite and other privileges to be expressly reserved.

No. 5.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 1, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 1, 1880, *noon.*

FRENCH Ambassador says that he sees no objection to an adjournment to give time to consider Albania, but that, if any, it will have to be a long one.

No. 6.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1062. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1880.

THE French Minister has informed me to-day that M. de Freycinet has authorized the French Ambassador at Constantinople to sign with his colleagues the collective note relating to the Montenegrin frontier, as drawn up by Her Majesty's Government and laid before the Powers for their acceptance.

He at the same time made a confidential communication to me, to the effect that M. de Freycinet was anxious that there should be no misunderstanding as to the nature of the French co-operation, and that he was consequently instructed to explain that the French Government contemplated only a simple naval demonstration, involving no act of war, and that they did not bind themselves to exercise anything but moral pressure upon the Turkish Government.

It appears that M. Challemel-Lacour is expected in London almost immediately, and that he will seek an early interview to communicate more in detail the views of his Government.

With regard to the question of the self-denying Protocol, Count de Montebello said that M. de Freycinet would have preferred the draft as originally drawn up by Her Majesty's Government, but that he is ready to accept the Austrian alteration in the wording if all the Powers agree to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 7.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 458.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1880.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have not received any recommendation from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of a note on the Montenegrin question other than the collective note to which the Powers have unanimously given their consent. The Porte evidently wishes to avoid any naval demonstration, or the proposal of one, by at once accepting the Dulcigno proposal. Her Majesty's Government think it advisable to go on with the collective note, which only

contemplates a demonstration in the event of the Porte declaring its continued adherence to the April Convention, and not carrying it out in three weeks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 306.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 27, 1880.

IN pursuance of instructions received from your Lordship, I informed M. de Giers that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would greatly conduce to a peaceful settlement of the Greek frontier question if the Mussulman proprietors in the districts to be ceded to Greece were guaranteed in the possession of their property, and that your Lordship was ready to recommend the other Powers to enter into such a guarantee, and to give practical effect to it by naming Consuls or Commissioners whose duty it would be to see that the guarantee was faithfully observed.

M. de Giers informed me, in reply, that the Russian Government acquiesced in the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, and that they would join in guaranteeing the property of the Mussulman inhabitants in the districts which are to be ceded to Greece.

Instructions in this sense have been sent to M. Novikow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 9.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 27, 1880.

THE other day when discussing with M. de Giers eventualities in the East, I asked him whether the breaking out of hostilities in Albania would prove the signal for a Bulgarian revolution in Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Giers replied that he did not think that such a consequence would follow, and that the Russian Government had done everything in its power to impress both the Bulgarian Government, and on those whom it could influence in Eastern Roumelia, that it would be most unwise for them to infringe one of the main provisions of the Treaty of Berlin at the very moment that the European Powers were making such great exertions to insure the execution of its other provisions.

I told M. de Giers that I was very glad to hear that the Russian Government had given such sound and sensible advice, and that I was quite sure your Lordship would coincide with the views to which his Excellency had given expression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 10.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 332.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July* 28, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the German Government concur in the draft of the collective note to be addressed to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin question as contained in the telegram No. 380 addressed by your Lordship to Sir Henry Elliot on the 22nd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 11.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 333.)
Berlin, July 28, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 17, Conference, of the 26th ultimo, respecting pecuniary compensation for rectification of frontier, Count de Launay informs me that Signor Cairoli has instructed him to state that the Italian Government will gladly enter upon a "direct exchange of ideas" with Her Majesty's Government on the subject whenever your Lordship thinks it opportune to take the matter into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 12.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 339. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

PRINCE HOHENLOHE showed me a telegram from Count Hatzfeldt stating that the Ambassadors had been confidentially informed by the Porte that if they would simply declare in a collective note that the last Turkish proposal respecting Montenegro was not acceptable, the Porte would at once reply by agreeing to the Dulcigno proposal, and would take measures accordingly. The Ambassadors, Count Hatzfeldt states, had agreed to submit the confidential wishes of the Porte to their respective Governments, and to ask for instructions.

Since receiving this telegram, Prince Hohenlohe had been invited, he said, by the Governments of France and Austria, to agree to the new Turkish proposal, and he was now waiting to be made acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

The German Government, his Highness added, was willing to concur if all the other Powers were agreed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 13.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 672.)
Paris, August 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD some conversation this morning with M. de Freycinet with reference to the Greek and Montenegrin frontier questions.

His Excellency told me that he had yesterday authorized M. Tissot by telegraph to sign the collective note with reference to the latter question, a copy of which as drawn up by Her Majesty's Government had been put into Count de Montebello's hands by your Lordship (as stated in your despatch to me No. 1033 of the 30th ultimo), and that he had requested M. de Montebello to inform your Lordship thereof.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1034 of the 30th ultimo, M. de Freycinet said that he did not see why, when the collective note was presented, it might not be simultaneously intimated to the Porte that the Powers refused the compromise put forward in its last reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 14.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 675.)
Paris, August 1, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE FREYCINET told me this morning that he had telegraphed to Count de Montebello that the French Government were ready to accept the Protocol suggested by Her Majesty's Government, by which the Powers would renounce any selfish objects or advantages in connection with their concerted action for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and that, if the other Powers agreed, his Government would accept the restriction proposed by that of Austro-Hungary. He added that he would have preferred the original proposition, and he asked me why Her Majesty's Government had accepted the restriction in question.

I replied by reading to his Excellency the third paragraph in your Lordship's despatch No. 1035 of the 30th ultimo, which records what you had said to M. de Montebello on this subject. I remarked that of course the Protocol was not to be communicated to the Porte, and that the proposal had gone no further than that such a document as proposed should be signed by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople.

His Excellency said that this was what he understood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 15.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2, 9 A.M.)

(No. 64. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, August 1, 1880, 7 P.M.

AS the Dulcigno cession is again under consideration, I beg to report that a most trustworthy person who was at that place last week assures me that the Mahommedan inhabitants are not at all disposed to resist their annexation to Montenegro, and if the Porte ceases working the insurrection, that the surrender could be effected without difficulty.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 16.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 2, 1880.

LORD ODO RUSSELL'S telegram, repeated in your Lordship's No. 413.

On Friday Baron Haymerle told me that the Turkish Ambassador had been pressing him for an immediate answer to the proposal of the Porte about the Montenegrin frontier contained in the note of the 15th ultimo, and he had answered that he would instruct the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to reply that it could not be entertained.

He had just informed the French Chargé d'Affaires that he meant to send these instructions, but while I was with him it suddenly struck him that the collective note that has been agreed upon will be the answer to the Porte's note of the 15th, and that no other was required.

He sent for a clerk at once, and in my presence desired that a message should be sent to the French Ambassador to point this out to him, and to say that instead of sending the proposed instruction to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, he would only desire him to hold verbally the same language as he had himself used to Edhem Pasha.

Some misapprehension has probably arisen from telegrams sent by the French and German Ambassadors to their Governments before Baron Haymerle's message reached them, for when I saw him he certainly intended that the collective note should be sent in immediately, and I am pretty sure that he did not contemplate sending any other, but I will inquire at once.

No. 17.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 2, 1880.

THE explanation given in my telegram, of this morning was correct, and there is no question of any but the collective note.

The Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople having reported that he and his colleagues had been informed by the Porte that if their answer to the plan suggested in the note of the 15th July was unfavourable, it would carry out the Dulcigno arrangement, [? and he] has been instructed to say that the rejection of that proposal would be stated in the collective note to be immediately communicated to the Turkish Government.

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 2, 1880.

ACCORDING to the last Austrian accounts from Cettinjé everything is quiet on the frontier, and there had been no fighting since the 23rd, when the Montenegrins attacked an Albanian village, and the whole of the Mirdites are said to have gone back to their homes.

No. 19.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2, 10 P.M.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, August 2, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 399.

Count Corti has informed his Government that the Porte has confidentially manifested the desire to avoid the proposed demonstration by the immediate acceptance of the Dulcigno proposal. In reply, his Excellency has been fully authorized to enter into any arrangement which, in concert with his colleagues, he may deem acceptable, provided it clearly and [group wrong; ? simpl]y binds the Porte to the prompt and faithful execution of engagements without prevarication.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 333.)

Foreign Office, August 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 92 of the 29th June, in which you request to be furnished with arguments in support of the award of the Berlin Conference, I transmit, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter on the subject from Sir Lintorn Simmons.*

Your Excellency will, however, probably find that the safest course will be to rely on the fact that the decision of all the Powers was unanimously given in favour of this new frontier line.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 79.)

Foreign Office, August 2, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the note which you addressed to the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which copies were inclosed in your despatches Nos. 201 and 208

* See Part LI, No. 826.

of the 11th and 13th ultimo, stating that Her Majesty's Government would equally rejoice to hear that the Porte had agreed to carry out either the April Convention or the Dulcigno cession, provided that sufficient guarantees were given to the Powers for the execution of the plan finally adopted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 22.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen, No. 33, July 11.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 3.)

STATEMENT showing the approximate Number of Troops stationed in the following Districts:

PREVESA.

Infantry	..	1,200
Artillery	..	250
Field artillery	..	10
Zaptiehs	..	120
Total	..	1,580

PARGA AND MARGARITI.

Infantry	..	500
Artillery	..	50
Zaptiehs	..	80
Total	..	630

ARTA AND ANISO.

Infantry	..	2,860
Artillery	..	50
Mountain artillery	..	60
Cavalry	..	50
Zaptiehs	..	200
Total	..	3,160

JANINA.

Infantry	..	2,100
Cavalry	..	300
Total	..	2,700
Artillery	..	1 battery.
Mountain artillery	..	2 batteries.

ZAGORI.

Infantry	..	600

METZOVO AND GREVENO.

Infantry	..	600

KONITZA AND GREVENO.

Infantry	..	600

DELVINO.

Infantry	..	600

Last night I received a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, informing me that the 2nd battalion 4th Regiment, which is composed of Albanians and "Ghegs," is arriving in batches at Janina from Greveno, and is gradually being disbanded. The above battalion is about 990 strong.

The average strength of the battalions at Janina, Zagori, Metzovo, Konitza, and Delvino is given at about 600 men each.

Prevesa, July 11, 1880.

No. 23.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 201.)

Philippopoli, July 17, 1880.

My Lord,

AS the documents annexed to the Report of the Kirdjali Commission, copies of which I have already had the honour to transmit to your Lordship, are of some considerable bulk, it will not be out of place if I venture to submit, for your Lordship's convenience, an abstract of the evidence contained therein, together with such further information as has reached me on the subject. The district of Kirdjali, where the recent excesses occurred, has, ever since the first formation of Eastern Roumelia into an autonomous province, been a source of trouble to the Provincial Government. The population, owing to the advice of certain agitators, had refused to recognize the authority of the Government of Eastern Roumelia. For some considerable time, therefore, the district had remained in a state of semi-independence, all the efforts on the part of the authorities to conciliate the population meeting with no response. Such was the condition of affairs at the beginning of February of this year, when it was announced that one of the principal agitators, Deli Ibrahim, was organizing an insurrection on a larger scale. An attack had, in fact, been made by him on the village of Hodjalar, and some gendarmes stationed there had been disarmed. Sixty-one notables, the representatives of twenty-six villages, had signed a Proclamation declaring that they had no confidence in the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and that they intended organizing an independent Administration.

On the receipt of the news of the disarmament of the gendarmes at Hodjalar, the Commander of the gendarmerie at Kirdjali hastened to impress on the departmental authorities the importance of arresting at once the progress of this insurrectionary movement. Two detachments of gendarmes were consequently sent, but their presence in the disturbed district does not seem to have been productive of any practical effect, the rebels persisting in declaring that they would neither recognize the authority of the Kaïmakam of Kirdjali nor that of the Bailli of Hermanli.

Negotiations were, therefore, broken off. Upon the urgent application of the Kaïmakam of Kirdjali, who appears to have exaggerated most needlessly the force of the insurgents under Deli Ibrahim, and after consultation by telegraph with the authorities at Philippopoli, an order was issued by the Prefect of Haskeui directing the employment of the 10th Droujine. In reply, however, to a question put by the officer in command of the gendarmerie, who was to act in concert with the officer commanding the troops, as to whether the former would be authorized in disarming the villagers, the Chief of the Staff was careful to point out that much tact would be required, and that he was to remember that his duty was not to conquer villages which had been ceded to the province by the Treaty of Berlin, but to subdue brigands who were disturbing the peaceful population.

Similar instructions were given to Captain Yacheroff, who was called upon to take the command of the 10th Droujine. The detachment was reviewed by the Chief of the Staff, and before its departure the Prefect again impressed on Captain Yacheroff the importance of occupying the disturbed villages without effusion of blood.

Very little attention, however, seems to have been paid to these instructions by Captain Yacheroff, who proceeded first of all to call out the armed inhabitants of the neighbouring villages to act as a reserve, and then to issue the following extraordinary address to the troops:—

"My brothers, we are sent in the name of the law to restore order among rebels. Not very long ago you had a good example of what the proper conduct of a soldier ought to be when the Russian troops were in your country. These soldiers were your brothers; be as generous as they, and not less courageous, should you have to fight with the enemy. In that case I am sure you will emulate the heroes of Chipka and Choinovo, and you will know how to win the thanks of your country."

Captain Yacheroff now divided the detachment under his command into three columns; the right wing, composed of 500 militiamen, under the orders of Lieutenant Engnelgard, was to march on the village of Kirdjali; the centre, 400 men strong, was to make for Ak-Bounar; and the left wing, consisting of the Hermanli Droujine, was to take up its position on the banks of the Arda, in the neighbourhood of Ak-Bounar.

On the 15th the three columns advanced; the right wing met with no obstacle until it reached Babular, where a discharge of musketry from a neighbouring covert killed one corporal and wounded three men. No resistance, it appears, was afterwards offered to the march of the troops, who occupied the other villages without exchanging a shot. On the 24th February the troops were recalled to Haskeui.

The excesses committed on the Turkish villagers by the militiamen are narrated in the

procès-verbaux signed by the members of the Commission, a short précis of which I will now give your Lordship:—

Daghkeui.—One Turk killed at a distance of 1 kilom. from the village, presumably by a sentinel. Three men complained of having been beaten.

Boyaldjikli.—Four women and one girl violated, and many articles alleged to have been stolen by the militiamen; but on this latter point the evidence is conflicting, the inhabitants denying the authenticity of petitions sent to Philippopoli in their name.

Alhatli.—One Turk killed close to the village by a sentinel. His companion is said to have died of fright. The villagers deny having signed the list of stolen articles presented to the authorities at Haskeui.

Yeni-Mahale Babalar.—This village was pillaged by neighbouring Bulgarians; no complaints against the troops.

Hassan Babalar.—It was here that the corporal was killed and three men wounded by the followers of Deli Mehemet. The Turkish members of the Commission insisted that no indemnity should be given to the inhabitants of this village, who, it was said, had encouraged the insurrectionary movement.

Tepedjik.—Doubt was cast on the sincerity of the complaints of the inhabitants of this village, who, in many cases, disavowed the petitions presumed to have been signed by them. Three women were outraged by militiamen.

Dedeler.—Although the extent of the outrages alleged by the inhabitants to have been committed by the militia in this village appears to have been exaggerated, sufficient proof is afforded of the wanton murder of a woman named Aïché, aged 45. The cause of the death of a woman named Toummichan, aged 89, reported to have succumbed in consequence of maltreatment, is not so clearly shown. The body of a Turk named Bekir, who had apparently been shot in the head, was also discovered in the neighbourhood.

Hodjalar.—This village was pillaged, and seven women were outraged and one child of 10 brutally violated.

Kodja-Kechla.—Of the forty-two women and girls alleged to have been violated, thirty-four cases were proved. The inhabitants further declared that a woman named Fatma had been beaten to death. The village was pillaged.

Mehmed Akdja-Allan.—The inhabitants of this village fled on the approach of the militia. During their absence the village was pillaged, and two men, named Redjeb Oglou Cherif and Moustafa Oglou, who had remained behind, were murdered.

Tepe-Alti.—Two men named Assa Oglou and Moustafa Suleiman, an old man of 90, remained in the village to receive the militia. The former was taken prisoner, the latter killed.

Kara-Alathar was destroyed by fire.

Keralar.—All the villagers of Keralar took to flight on the arrival of the troops with the exception of two old men aged 75 and 80 respectively, whose bodies were afterwards found, the throats of both cut.

Alteddin.—Thirty people remained in this village, one, an old woman of 90, being found dead with her head cut open, and the body of another woman aged 35 being likewise discovered with a bullet wound in the back; seventeen women had been violated, and the village pillaged.

Ak-Bounar.—Two old women named Hourri and Hafizé, both 80 years of age, were found dead in this village, the former with several wounds upon her body. The body of a woman was, moreover, found hanging near the village of Osman Sachalar, where the militia, it is said, had never been. Thirteen houses had been set on fire in Ak-bounar, and nine women had been violated.

Ak-Alender.—The body of a woman named Elfide, aged 70, was discovered, the cause of her death being unknown.

Altogether, therefore, seventeen persons had been killed, a large proportion of these being of a great age. Seventy-six women and girls had been outraged, and almost every village through which the troops passed had been either pillaged or burnt. Unfortunately, little evidence is forthcoming as to the circumstances under which these revolting acts were committed, and it is to be feared that the worst crimes will remain unpunished. It is also much to be regretted that not a single one of the medical Reports mentioned in the *procès-verbaux* is to be found among the annexes. The Commission, which was composed of four Bulgarians, three Turks, and three foreigners, appears, however, to have conducted the inquiry with care. An indemnity of £ T. 5,000 was assigned by it for losses sustained by the villages; a further pecuniary indemnity proposed for the eighteen young girls who

had been outraged being, however, refused by the Turkish members of the Commission.

The responsibility for the revolting behaviour of the soldiers may be said to fall entirely upon the officers in command. It is clearly deducible from the evidence afforded that no discipline whatever was maintained in the villages; the men were allowed to search the houses as they liked, and several of the officers set the example of pillaging by illegally appropriating cattle and tobacco. Moreover, an example for the brutal treatment to which the villagers were exposed at the hands of the troops was likewise given by Lieutenant Dobref, who was proved to have mercilessly sabred an inoffensive young Turk, who subsequently died of the wound inflicted. Nor can it be said that the order of the day issued at the outset by Captain Yacheroff tended to calm the passions of his men.

Of the five officers handed over to justice by the Commission, three have been dismissed from the militia, but I have failed to learn that any degradation accompanies the sentence, as one of the officers in question is said to be still in Eastern Roumelia wearing a Russian uniform.

Captain Yacheroff, on whom, as commander of the expedition, the chief responsibility falls, has up to the present time been allowed to retain his commission. Efforts are being made, I am told, by the military authorities to persuade Captain Yacheroff to resign, but this officer, it is said, refuses to tender his resignation unless a pecuniary indemnity is paid to him.

The other thirty-two persons mentioned in the Report, and accused chiefly of robbery, are now being tried at Hasheul.

Although the Government here continue to assure me that they are doing all in their power to punish the offenders, I regret to say there is reason to fear that the punishment which is being dealt out for the cruelties and atrocities perpetrated in the district of Kirdjali is far from adequate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 24.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 60.) *Buyukdéré, July 21, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the compte rendu of the seventh meeting of the European Commission held at Galata Séraï on the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 7, tenue le 28 Juin / 10 Juillet 1880 (2 Chaban, 1297), au Lycée Impérial de Galatu-Séraï, à Constantinople.

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat.
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à midi et demi.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Le Baron de Kosjek prie les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien le renseigner sur une nouvelle publiée par plusieurs journaux de Constantinople et notamment par le "Sémaphore," conçue dans les termes suivants : "Une Commission Supérieure vient d'être constituée à la Sublime Porte, sous la Présidence de son Excellence Abeddin Pacha, dans le but de délibérer sur les moyens à prendre pour mettre en application les nouveaux Statuts Organiques des provinces. Djevdet Pacha, Ministre de la Justice et Artin Effendi Dadian, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, font partie de la Commission."

Les Commissaires Ottomans répondent qu'ils n'ont aucune connaissance officielle de la nouvelle publiée par les journaux.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie se rallient à la demande faite par le Baron de Kosjek, et prient leurs collègues Ottomans de leur donner des renseignements à ce sujet.

Les Commissaires Ottomans prendront des renseignements à cet égard.

La question des Tableaux à présenter par les Commissaires Ottomans sur les Budgets des Vilayets, ayant été de nouveau soulevée, *son Excellence Assim Pasha* répond qu'il n'a fait aucune promesse à ce sujet.

MM. les Commissaires peuvent, dit-il, s'ils le désirent, consulter les *salnamés*.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice donne lecture, en son nom et au nom de ses collègues étrangers, de la déclaration ci-après :

"Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie croient de leur devoir de porter d'avance à la connaissance des Délégués Ottomans, que, les Titres XIV-XXIII, Articles 274-349 du Projet de Loi, se rapportant à des matières déjà déclarées de la compétence du Conseil Général, ils rejettent ces Chapitres, les considérant comme ne devant pas faire partie du Projet.

"2. Ils désirent en même temps faire savoir à leurs collègues Ottomans, (1) que, le Titre XIV se référant à une Loi Impériale sur la Justice, dernièrement promulguée, est par cela même contraire au Traité de Berlin, ils déclinent donc la discussion de ce Titre, et demandent la présentation à la Commission d'un Règlement sur l'organisation des Tribunaux, analogue à celui donné à la Crète en 1868, et des renseignements sur la loi ci-dessus nommée. (2) Qu'ils désirent être renseignés sur la nouvelle loi de la gen-

darmerie, doit il est parlé dans le Projet à plusieurs reprises. Ils demandent que cette loi soit présentée à la Commission, ainsi qu'un règlement de police, qui manque au Projet.

"3. Ils prient aussi MM. les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien informer leurs collègues quand la carte indiquant les limites des vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe, si souvent promise à la Commission, lui sera présentée, ainsi que les données statistiques relatives aux finances des provinces, dont la Commission doit bientôt s'occuper."

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent de répondre à cette déclaration.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite des débats sur les 100 Articles.

Le Président donne lecture des Articles.

Les Articles 56 et 57 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 58.

M. Aubaret propose de substituer à cet Article, l'Article 63 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Après quelques modifications, les Commissaires Ottomans se réservant sur l'alinéa 13, ce dernier Article est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 58. Le Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics a dans ses attributions :

"1. Les encouragements à donner à l'agriculture, au commerce, et à l'industrie, ainsi que la surveillance à exercer sur ces branches de la production au point de vue de l'intérêt public ;

"2. La construction et l'entretien des routes et des ponts ;

"3. La surveillance et le contrôle de la construction, de l'exploitation, et de l'entretien des chemins de fer, d'intérêt provincial, ou des tramways concédés à des particuliers ;

"4. La surveillance de l'Administration des Chemins de Fer relevant de l'Empire, au point de vue de la stricte observation des lois et règlements qui en régissent l'exploitation ;

"5. La construction et l'entretien des ponts, jetées, et autres ouvrages du génie maritime ;

"6. La canalisation des rivières, leur endiguement et autres ouvrages défensifs contre les inondations ; la construction et l'entretien des canaux de navigation ;

"7. Les dessèchements et irrigations entrepris pour le compte du vilayet ; la surveillance et le contrôle de ceux entrepris par des districts, des communes, des Syndicats, ou des Sociétés privées ;

"8. La construction, l'entretien, et l'ameublement des bâtiments appartenant au vilayet ;

"9. L'aménagement, l'exploitation, et la police des bois et forêts appartenant à l'Etat, conformément aux Règlements qui régissent les bois et forêts, l'aménagement des bois et forêts, appartenant aux communes et autres personnes morales (établissements religieux ou d'utilité publique), les mesures réglementaires applicables aux bois et forêts des particuliers ;

"10. La surveillance du régime des cours d'eau ;

"11. La réglementation de la chasse et de la pêche ;

"12. La surveillance de l'exploitation des mines, minières et carrières appartenant à l'Etat.

"13. La préparation des lois et règlements concernant les services ci-dessus."

Les Articles 59, 60, 61, 62, et 63 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 64.

M. Aubaret fait remarquer, à propos de cet Article, qu'il est nécessaire que le projet contienne un Chapitre relatif à la police. C'est là, dit-il, une chose indispensable, car, selon lui, le premier des besoins dans les provinces est la sécurité.

En attendant que les Commissaires Ottomans veuillent bien soumettre à l'avis de la Commission un Règlement de police et de gendarmerie l'Article 64 est, d'un commun accord, réservé.

Article 65.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne propose de supprimer la phrase suivante de cet Article :—

"La moitié des membres du Conseil étant renouvelée tous les deux ans."

Six Commissaires acceptent l'Article 65 avec cette suppression, de telle façon que cet Article reste ainsi conçu :

"Art. 65. Le Conseil Général du vilayet sera composé (1) de ceux qui en sont membres de droit ; (2) des membres élus par la population ; (3) des membres nommés par la Vali.

"Le Conseil aura une durée de quatre années."

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent.

Article 66.

Par suite de la proposition déjà faite sur le Comité Permanent, la Commission adopte à l'unanimité, en remplacement de cet Article, l'amendement ci-dessous présenté par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice :

"Art. 66. Les membres de droit du Conseil Général sont : (1) le Mufti et les Chefs religieux des diverses communautés ; (2) le Mustéchar, le Defterdar, les Directeurs de la Justice, des Travaux Publics, et de l'Instruction Publique."

Article 67.

L'amendement suivant, présenté par M. Aubaret en remplacement de cet Article, est accepté par six Commissaires :

"Art. 67. Pour être membre nommé ou élu du Conseil Général, il faut être domicilié dans le vilayet."

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent.

Article 68.

L'Article 68 est accepté à l'unanimité.

Toutefois, Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice et M. Hitrovo font leur réserve au sujet de cet Article en tant qu'il concerne la subdivision du vilayet en caza.

De plus, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne fait remarquer qu'il a accepté l'Article 68 pour ne pas se séparer de ses collègues, mais qu'il aurait préféré l'élection directe avec un sens électoral tel qu'il existe en Roumélie Orientale. Selon lui, l'élection à deux degrés fonctionne ordinairement mal.

Les Articles 69 et 70 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice fait remarquer, à propos de l'Article 69, qu'il aurait préféré le renouvellement de tous les membres élus à la fois, et qu'il y eût alors des élections générales.

De cette façon on aurait, dit-il, intéressé les habitants aux affaires du pays. Mais il s'est rallié, en dernier lieu, au vote de ses collègues pour ne pas se séparer d'eux.

Article 71.

L'Article 71, amendé par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, est adopté à la majorité de 6 voix dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 71. Le Vali nommera au Conseil Général des membres au nombre du quart des membres élus, choisis autant que possible en nombre égal dans les deux classes qui suivent : (1) Les grands propriétaires, commerçants et industriels ; (2) les hommes de science et d'instruction. Ces membres siégeront au Conseil pendant toute la durée de la Législature, c'est-à-dire pour quatre ans.

"En l'absence d'un membre nommé, le Vali, pour le remplacer, en désignera un autre aussi promptement que possible."

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent.

Article 72.

L'amendement ci-après, proposé par M. Aubaret, s'appuyant sur l'amendement de Salonique, est adopté à l'unanimité.

"Art 72. Les Conseils Généraux des vilayets se réunissent au chef-lieu du vilayet, au commencement d'Octobre de chaque année. Leur session durera deux mois au plus.

"A la fin de ces deux mois, ou plutôt, sur l'avis donné par le Bureau du Conseil Général, le Président déclarera au Conseil et annoncera au Vali que l'ordre du jour est épuisé. Celui-ci prononcera alors la clôture de la session.

"Tous les ans le Vali prononcera l'ouverture et la clôture de la session en personne, ou par l'entremise d'un fonctionnaire agissant en son nom."

L'Article 73 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:

"Art 73. Si le Vali le juge nécessaire, c'est-à-dire, si la discussion des questions importantes ne se termine pas au bout de deux mois, il peut prolonger la session de quinze jours, mais il doit en indiquer les motifs à la Sublime Porte."

Article 74.

Le premier alinéa est remplacé par l'amendement ci-dessous, proposé par les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne:

"Le Vali ne peut dissoudre le Conseil Général qu'après avoir pris l'avis du Conseil d'Administration, sauf dans les cas d'une gravité exceptionnelle pour lesquels il peut prononcer la dissolution, mais il doit en informer immédiatement la Sublime Porte."

Le second alinéa est maintenu.

L'article est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante:

"Art. 74. Le Vali ne peut dissoudre le Conseil Général qu'après avoir pris l'avis du Conseil d'Administration, sauf dans les cas d'une gravité exceptionnelle pour lesquels il peut prononcer la dissolution, mais il doit en informer immédiatement la Sublime Porte.

"La feuille officieuse, qui sera publiée par le Vali et annonçant la dissolution du Conseil Général, portera la convocation des électeurs dans deux mois et la réunion du Conseil Général aura lieu dans les deux mois suivants."

Article 75.

L'Article 75, avec la suppression des mots "et les plus capables," est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit:

"Art. 75. Le Vali nommera à la présidence du Conseil Général un des trois candidats que ce Conseil aura choisis au commencement de chaque session.

"Le Conseil Général aura deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires qu'il choisira pour chaque session, immédiatement après la nomination du Président.

"Le plus âgé des membres du Conseil le présidera jusqu'à la nomination du Président par le Vali, et deux des membres les moins âgés rempliront les fonctions de Secrétaire, jusqu'à ce que les Secrétaires aient été élus."

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, tout en votant cet Article avec tous ses collègues, déclare qu'à son point de vue, il lui semblerait préférable que le Président fût élu par le Conseil Général.

M. Hitrovo déclare partager complètement le point de vue de son collègue de la Grande Bretagne.

Les Articles 76 et 77 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 78.

L'Article 78, auquel M. Aubaret propose l'amendement de Salonique, est accepté par six Commissaires dans la forme ci-après:

"Art. 78. Le Président maintiendra le bon ordre dans le Conseil. Il fera sortir immédiatement du Conseil celui des membres qui aura dit quelque parole offensante contre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, contre la famille Impériale, contre le Vali, ou contre le Conseil Général,

"En cas de refus, ou de récidive commise par le membre censuré, il sera blâmé et sera en même temps invité à faire des excuses au Conseil. S'il ne se soumet pas à cette invitation il sera exclu du Conseil.

"Nul, sauf les agents de police en service, ne pourra pénétrer armé dans la salle du Conseil Général."

Les Commissaires Ottomans s'abstiennent.

Les Articles 79 et 80 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 81.

L'amendement ci-dessous proposé par le Commissaire de France est accepté, comme Article 81, par six Commissaires.

"Art. 81. Le Conseil Général, par l'entremise de son Président, présentera au Vali le résultat de ses délibérations."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien du texte primitif.

En attendant les indications financières et statistiques que doivent présenter les Commissaires Ottomans, pour servir de base à l'examen des Articles 82 à 90, la Commission réserve la discussion de ces Articles.

Article 90.

L'Article 90, duquel on supprime, sur la proposition de Lord Fitzmaurice, le mot "caza," est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix comme suit:

"Art. 90. Le Conseil Général, en outre des questions spécialement indiquées dans les Articles précédents, donne son avis sur toutes les questions soumises à ses délibérations par la Sublime Porte ou par le Vali, ayant rapport à l'Administration. Le Conseil des Communautés étant sous sa juridiction, il les surveille aussi."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien du mot "caza."

L'Article 91 est supprimé à l'unanimité.

Les Articles 92, 93, et 94 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Article 95.

L'Article 95, dont on supprime la dernière phrase ainsi conçue: "tant qu'elles sont conformes, &c.," est accepté par six Commissaires dans la rédaction ci-après:

"Art. 95. Les membres du Conseil Général ne peuvent jamais être poursuivis pour les opinions qu'ils auront émises pendant les délibérations."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien du texte primitif.

Sur la proposition de *Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice*, les Articles 96, 97, 98, 99, et 100 sont supprimés à l'unanimité.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Mercredi, 14 Juillet, la suite de la discussion des Articles présentés par les Commissaires Ottomans.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
V. DE GRITZENKY.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 25.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 61.)
Buyukdéré, July 22, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 53 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of Articles 41 to 78 of the new Projet de Loi, as amended and revised by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Articles 41 to 78 of the New Projet de Loi.

ARTICLE 41. Sont surtout du devoir des Valis la conservation de la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques des habitants par l'intermédiaire du Chef de la Police, l'arrestation et la détention des coupables, et l'exécution de toutes sortes d'enquêtes et de contrôle au sujet de la sécurité publique et municipale. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 42. S'il se produit, dans les limites du vilayet, un mouvement insurrectionnel, partiel ou total, troublant la sécurité et les droits des populations ou du Gouvernement, le Vali, tout en faisant connaître immédiatement à la Sublime Porte les origines, la forme, et les forces du mouvement, est autorisé, sous sa propre responsabilité, à prendre les mesures nécessaires et à faire sans retard, selon les circonstances, les dépenses même non

prévues par le budget; mais il doit, en même temps, en télégraphier les motifs au Ministère des Finances. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 43. Les Valis pourront, quand ils le jugeront nécessaire, diriger sur un point, outre la gendarmerie, des troupes régulières. Tout en faisant connaître le fait à la Sublime Porte, ils emploieront les forces nécessaires, après avoir donné un ordre officiel à l'officier du plus haut grade de l'armée régulière qui se trouvera sur les lieux. Si, dans des circonstances extraordinaires, il ne se trouvait pas sur les lieux des troupes régulières, ou s'il n'y en avait pas en quantité suffisante, ils le feront connaître à la Sublime Porte et au Commandant des forces militaires, et ils pourront employer autant de troupes de la réserve ou de l'armée territoriale que cela sera nécessaire, après en avoir conféré, dans le Conseil Administratif, avec l'officier de la réserve du grade le plus élevé; il sera dressé procès-verbal de cette conférence. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 44. Les Valis ne doivent pas s'immiscer dans les affaires judiciaires, ni faire usage de leur influence dans les affaires pendantes devant les Tribunaux. Mais, quand ils auront aperçu des lacunes dans les règlements des Tribunaux, ou auront constaté l'incapacité et des abus des fonctionnaires, ils saisiront de l'affaire l'inspection des Tribunaux, et la feront connaître, en même temps, au Chéikh-ul-Islamat ou au Ministère de la Justice, selon les circonstances. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 45. Les Valis prêteront aux Procureurs-Généraux, sur leur demande, l'assistance nécessaire pour l'exécution des jugements édictés par les Tribunaux Correctionnels. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 46. Renvoyé à la fin de la discussion. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 47. Les affaires civiles du vilayet sont administrées par les principaux fonctionnaires qui sont :

(*a*) Le Mustéchar; (*b*) le Defterdar; (*c*) le Directeur de la Justice; (*d*) le Mektoubdji ou Directeur de la Correspondance; (*e*) Directeurs des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce; (*f*) le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique; (*g*) l'Alay Bey ou Colonel des Gendarmes. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 48. Le Conseil d'Administration est composé du Vali, de son Mustéchar, du Defterdar, du Directeur de la Justice, du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, du Directeur des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce, du Mufti, des Chefs religieux des autres Communautés et de huit membres élus par le Conseil Général parmi ses membres.

Le Conseil se réunira sous la Présidence du Vali et, en son absence, sous celle du Mustéchar.

Art. 49. Le Vali soumettra au Conseil d'Administration toutes les questions qui sont de la compétence du dit Conseil, en matière d'administration provinciale, et en exécutera les décisions.

Le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet ne pourra, à quelque titre que ce soit, s'ingérer dans l'exercice du pouvoir judiciaire ou exécutif.

Dans toute mesure administrative qui ne consisterait pas dans la mise à exécution pure et simple d'une disposition légale ou réglementaire, mais dont l'application exigera au préalable une discussion, un jugement, une appréciation des différents intérêts engagés, le Vali sera tenu de s'en rapporter à l'avis du Conseil sus-mentionné.

Conformément à ce qui vient d'être dit, le Conseil sus-mentionné aura le droit de discuter toutes les mesures administratives, prises par le Vali, qui auront un caractère permanent, ou d'une certaine durée.

Le Conseil d'Administration pourra introduire, dans la mesure proposée par le Vali, les modifications qu'il croira convenables. Les arrêts et règlements ainsi discutés, pourront être mis à exécution immédiatement par le Vali, sauf à lui à demander l'autorisation du Gouvernement Impérial, dans le cas où cela serait nécessaire.

Si le Vali croit bon de mettre à exécution l'arrêt proposé, bien qu'il ait été repoussé par le Conseil, ou sans admettre les modifications introduites, il ne pourra procéder à son application qu'en vertu d'un Décret Impérial. Il pourra même procéder à l'exécution immédiate, sauf ratification du Gouvernement Impérial, également par Décret, mais en déclarant l'urgence et en assumant sur lui toute la responsabilité d'une pareille mesure. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 50. Supprimé. (*Unanimité.*)

Article (Additionnel). Quand le Vali, avec l'assentiment de son Conseil d'Administration, aura transmis une demande à un Ministre, et que celui-ci n'y aura pas répondu dans un délai de trois mois, le Vali devra interpréter ce silence comme affirmation de sa demande et comme autorisation à procéder, dès lors, à l'exécution des mesures nécessaires. (*Majorité.*)

Des Attributions des Mustéchars.

Art. 51. Les Mustéchars, étant les aides des Gouverneurs-Généraux, s'occupent de celles des attributions des Valis que ceux-ci leur délégueront. Ils dépouilleront la correspondance émanant des divers points du vilayet, et, avec l'autorisation des Valis, d'autres pièces et documents. Ils les transmettront aux divisions auxquelles elles se rapportent, après avoir indiqué les avis et décisions du Gouvernement du Vilayet, et après en avoir soumis les plus importantes au Vali.

Les relations avec les communautés religieuses du vilayet, les actes relatifs à la police des religions et des cultes, la police générale, les instructions à donner aux fonctionnaires des diverses régions du vilayet, et en général, les questions qui ne dépendent pas des autres principaux fonctionnaires, sont du ressort des Mustéchars. (*Unanimité.*)

Des Attributions des Defterdars.

Art. 52. Les Defterdars ont pour attributions :—

(*a.*) De surveiller l'assiette et la répartition des impôts;

(*b.*) De faire rentrer à temps les revenus généraux, les amendes et toutes les autres classes des revenus du vilayet;

(*c.*) De surveiller les monopoles établis par le Gouvernement;

(*d.*) De surveiller les immeubles, les biens, et les forêts de l'Etat;

(*e.*) D'effectuer les dépenses concernant le vilayet;

(*f.*) De contrôler la comptabilité générale du vilayet et de dresser à temps le compte de l'armée;

(*g.*) De dresser et régler le budget du vilayet;

(*h.*) De donner leur avis sur les impôts et les lois et règlements se rapportant aux finances, et d'y proposer des modifications.

Les employés du Cadastre et des Registres Fonciers ("Defteri-Khakani"), ainsi que les Percepteurs, sont sous les ordres du Defterdar.

Les Defterdars s'occupent aussi des affaires financières concernant les Douanes, les postes et télégraphes, les mines, et les forêts. Ils veillent à l'entière exécution des dispositions du réglement des finances. Et, si certains fonctionnaires n'agissent pas, quant aux affaires financières, d'une manière conforme aux lois ou aux règlements de la comptabilité, ils en donnent avis au Vali et indiquent les moyens d'y remédier. Ils feront connaître au Vali ceux des Comptables ou Caissiers qui leur paraîtront en défaut ainsi que les causes de ces manquements. Ils pourront lui proposer leur destination et leur remplacement. Ils examinent aussi la comptabilité de l'Imprimerie du vilayet. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 53. Les fonctionnaires des finances du centre du vilayet sont :—(1) le Defterdar; (2) un Inspecteur des Finances; (3) un Mouavin ("Sous-Chef") du Defterdar et qui sera, en même temps, Contrôleur du Bureau de la Comptabilité; (4) le Caissier; (5) les fonctionnaires du Bureau de la Comptabilité.

Ces fonctionnaires se réuniront une fois par semaine en Conseil, sous la présidence du Defterdar, afin d'examiner les affaires financières qui leur seraient transmises pour être discutées. Les fonctionnaires du Cadastre et du Defteri-khakani feront aussi partie de ce Conseil. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 54. Aux époques désignées par le Defterdar, l'Inspecteur des finances fera une tournée dans le vilayet pour surveiller l'état des fonctionnaires des finances et des Percepteurs et contrôler la Comptabilité, examiner les comptes des Caisses de l'Administration et entendre les plaintes des contribuables. Cette tournée aura lieu après la publication du cahier de répartition des impôts. (*Unanimité.*)

(*Second alinéa réservé.*)

Des Attributions des Directeurs de la Justice.

Art. 55. En outre des matières indiquées dans les lois et règlements du Ministère de la Justice, les Directeurs de la Justice auront les attributions suivantes :

1. De désigner, quand cela sera nécessaire, en matières pénales, un Procureur-Général provisoire auprès des Tribunaux qui n'en auraient pas;

2. D'administrer les maisons d'arrêt et les prisons, et la réorganisation de leur état intérieur;

3. De préparer les règlements y relatifs pour être soumis aux délibérations du Conseil Général;

4. De faire publier, par le journal du vilayet, les lois et les règlements de la justice;

5. D'opérer la révision des Tableaux qui seront dressés mensuellement pour faire connaître les taxes et autres redevances perçues par les Tribunaux ;

6. De faire exécuter les peines édictées ;

7. D'examiner les pétitions demandant une remise des peines, dresser les Rapports y relatifs et en porter les conclusions à la connaissance du Vali, pour qu'il les soumette au Ministère de la Justice ;

8. De surveiller les fonctionnaires et le personnel du service judiciaire ;

9. De demander la destitution des fonctionnaires de la justice qui ne remplissent pas convenablement leurs devoirs ou qui n'observent point les ordres à eux donnés conformément à la loi ;

10. De faire dresser les statistiques concernant les Tribunaux ;

11. De donner leur avis relativement à la réglementation des Tribunaux, aux prisons et aux peines, ainsi qu'à la procédure civile et commerciale. (*Majorité.*)

Des Attributions des Mektoubjis (Chefs de la Correspondance).

Art. 56. Les attributions des Chefs de la Correspondance consistent en la direction de toutes les affaires ayant rapport à la correspondance du vilayet et en l'organisation et la conservation des registres. Ils exercent leurs premières attributions par l'entremise du Bureau de la Correspondance, et les secondes par celle du Directeur des Archives du vilayet, l'un et l'autre se trouvant sous leurs ordres. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 57. Le Chef de la Correspondance a encore pour attributions : l'inspection ou surveillance des affaires concernant la correspondance et les registres du siège central et des dépendances du vilayet, ainsi que la bonne garde et la sécurité des dépôts des archives. Lorsqu'il a connaissance d'un défaut dans la régularité des affaires de correspondance ou d'enregistrement d'une localité quelconque du vilayet, ou de l'incapacité des fonctionnaires de ces branches d'Administration, il en soumet l'amélioration ou régularisation au Vali. La surveillance de l'Imprimerie et du journal du vilayet entre également dans les attributions du Mektoubdji. (*Unanimité.*)

Des Attributions des Directeurs des Travaux Publics, de l'Agriculture, et du Commerce.

Art. 58. Le Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics a dans ses attributions :—

1. Les encouragements à donner à l'agriculture, au commerce, et à l'industrie, ainsi que la surveillance à exercer sur ces branches de la production au point de vue de l'intérêt public ;

2. La construction et l'entretien des routes et des ponts ;

3. La surveillance et le contrôle de la construction, de l'exploitation, et de l'entretien des chemins de fer, d'intérêt provincial, ou des tramways concédés à des particuliers ;

4. La surveillance de l'Administration des Chemins de Fer relevant de l'Empire, au point de vue de la stricte observation des lois et règlements qui en régissent l'exploitation ;

5. La construction et l'entretien des ponts, jetées, et autres ouvrages du génie maritime ;

6. La canalisation des rivières, leur endiguement et autres ouvrages défensifs contre les inondations ; la construction et l'entretien des canaux de navigation ;

7. Les dessèchements et irrigations entrepris pour le compte du vilayet ; la surveillance et le contrôle de ceux entrepris par des districts, des communes, des Syndicats, ou des Sociétés privées ;

8. La construction, l'entretien, et l'ameublement des bâtiments appartenant au vilayet ;

9. L'aménagement, l'exploitation, et la police des bois et forêts appartenant à l'Etat, conformément aux règlements qui régissent les bois et forêts, l'aménagement des bois et forêts, appartenant aux communes et autres personnes morales (établissements religieux ou d'utilité publique), les mesures réglementaires applicables aux bois et forêts des particuliers ;

10. La surveillance du régime des cours d'eau ;

11. La réglementation de la chasse et de la pêche ;

12. La surveillance de l'exploitation des mines, minières, et carrières appartenant à l'Etat ;

13. La préparation des lois et règlements concernant les services ci-dessus. (*Majorité.*)

Des Attributions des Directeurs de l'Instruction Publique.

Art. 59. Ces attributions sont :

(*a.*) La construction des écoles destinées à l'enseignement et à l'instruction par le vilayet ;

(*b.*) Le contrôle et l'inspection des écoles établies par les mahiés, les communautés, et les particuliers ;

(*c.*) La soumission aux examens des personnes chargées de l'enseignement, de l'instruction aux divers degrés, et de l'instruction professionnelle, ainsi que la délivrance à ces personnes de certificats constatant le résultat de leurs examens ;

(*d.*) L'étude et la publication de la meilleure méthode d'enseignement à adopter dans les écoles fondées par le vilayet ;

(*e.*) L'encouragement des beaux-arts ;

(*f.*) Donner secours pour la propagation de l'instruction et l'amélioration du sort des professeurs et précepteurs âgés, infirmes, et hors d'état de se suffire à eux-mêmes ;

(*g*) donner leur avis sur les lois et règlements concernant l'instruction publique. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 60. Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique préside au Conseil de l'Instruction Publique du Vilayet ; il prend soin des affaires du vilayet relatives à l'instruction, de la mise à exécution des réformes arrêtées, de l'exécution complète des dispositions du règlement de l'Instruction Publique et des ordres émanés du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, de l'inspection des écoles et bibliothèques du vilayet. Il présente, par écrit au Vali, ses considérations relativement à la propagation de l'instruction, aux Conseils d'Instruction Publique qui seraient formés dans les sandjaks, et à la prompte mise à exécution du règlement de l'Instruction Publique. Il prendra aussi les mesures nécessaires à la fondation des écoles dans les localités qui n'en auraient pas. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 61. Le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique préparera un sommaire, qu'il présentera au Vali et qui sera publié dans le journal du vilayet, résumant les faits relatifs à l'Instruction Publique dans le vilayet et les améliorations introduites. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 62. Les vakoufs seront abandonnés aux vilayets où ils se trouvent, pour que les fonds en soient affectés à l'Instruction Publique ; ces revenus reviendront aux écoles de la communauté à laquelle les vacoufs appartiennent ; il seront administrés et employés par l'entremise du Conseil de cette communauté et sous le contrôle du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 63. Les legs pour fondations pieuses, jusqu'à concurrence du tiers des biens du testateur, et dont l'affectation ne serait pas explicitement déterminée, seront affectés à l'Instruction Publique du Vilayet. Les legs dans chaque communauté appartiendront aux écoles de cette communauté. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 64. Réservé. (*Unanimité.*)

Titre IV.—*Des Conseils Généraux de Vilayet.*

Composition du Conseil Général.

Art. 65. Le Conseil Général du Vilayet sera composé : (1) de ceux qui en sont membres de droit ; (2) des membres élus par la population ; (3) des membres nommés par le Vali.

Le Conseil aura une durée de quatre années. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 66. Les membres de droit du Conseil Général sont : (1) le Mufti et les Chefs religieux des diverses communautés ; (2) le Mutéchar, le Defterdar, les Directeurs de la Justice, des Travaux Publics, et de l'Instruction Publique. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 67. Pour être membre nommé ou élu du Conseil Général, il faut être domicilié dans le vilayet. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 68. Les membres élus du Conseil Général seront nommés au scrutin secret par les Conseils des mahiés. Chaque cazá du vilayet formera une circonscription électorale pouvant élire deux membres. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 69. Une moitié des membres élus au Conseil Général sera renouvelée tous les deux ans. Les membres à renouveler pour la première fois seront désignés par le sort, et les circonscriptions électorales, dont ils étaient les élus, en nommeront d'autres. On remplacera, dans les autres renouvellements, ceux des membres qui auront exercé leurs fonctions pendant quatre ans. En cas de décès ou de démission d'un membre, le remplaçant restera en fonction ce qui restait de temps à son prédécesseur pour remplir la période de quatre années. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 70. Il sera donné aux membres élus pour la durée de leurs fonctions et pour leurs frais de route (aller et retour) des sommes d'argent, dont le montant sera fixé d'après

le calcul du nombre de jours, conformément à ce qui sera dit dans le Titre des Elections. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 71. Le Vali nommera au Conseil Général des membres au nombre du quart des membres élus, choisis autant que possible en nombre égal dans les deux classes qui suivent: (1) Les grands propriétaires, commerçants et industriels; (2) les hommes de science et d'instruction. Ces membres siégeront au Conseil pendant a tout la durée de la législature, c'est-à-dire pour quatre ans.

En l'absence d'un membre nommé, le Vali, pour le remplacer, en désignera un autre aussi promptement que possible. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 72. Les Conseils Généraux des vilayets se réunissent au chef-lieu du vilayet, au commencement d'Octobre de chaque année. Leur session durera deux mois au plus.

A la fin de ces deux mois, ou plutôt, sur l'avis donné par le Bureau du Conseil Général, le Président déclarera au Conseil et annoncera au Vali que l'ordre du jour est épuisé. Celui-ci prononcera alors la clôture de la session.

Tous les ans le Vali prononcera l'ouverture et la clôture de la session en personne, ou par l'entremise d'un fonctionnaire agissant en son nom. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 73. Si le Vali le juge nécessaire, c'est-à-dire, si la discussion des questions importantes ne se termine pas au bout de deux mois, il peut prolonger la session de quinze jours, mais il doit en indiquer les motifs à la Sublime Porte. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 74. Le Vali ne peut dissoudre le Conseil Général qu'après avoir pris l'avis du Conseil d'Administration, sauf dans le cas d'une gravité exceptionnelle pour lesquels il peut prononcer la dissolution, mais il doit en informer immédiatement la Sublime Porte.

La feuille officieuse, qui sera publiée par le Vali et annonçant la dissolution du Conseil Général, portera la convocation des électeurs dans deux mois et la réunion du Conseil-Général aura lieu dans les deux mois suivants. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 75. Le Vali nommera à la Présidence du Conseil Général un des trois candidats que ce Conseil aura choisis au commencement de chaque session.

Le Conseil Général aura deux Vice-Présidents et deux Secrétaires qu'il choisira pour chaque session, immédiatement après la nomination du Président.

Le plus âgé des membres du Conseil le présidera jusqu'à la nomination du Président par le Vali, et deux des membres les moins âgés rempliront les fonctions de Secrétaire, jusqu'à ce que les Secrétaires aient été élus. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 76. Pour que les délibérations du Conseil soient valables, il faut qu'au moins la moitié plus un de ses membres constitutifs soient présents. Les décisions seront données à la majorité absolue des membres présents. En cas de partage des voix, la proposition soumise aux délibérations sera repoussée.

Pour les élections faites par le Conseil, si la majorité absolue n'est pas obtenue au premier tour de scrutin, la majorité relative suffira au second tour. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 77. Chaque membre doit voter en personne. Le vote sera donné par assis et levé, ou bien à l'appel nominal. (*Unanimité.*)

Art. 78. Le Président maintiendra le bon ordre dans le Conseil. Il fera sortir immédiatement du Conseil celui des membres qui aura dit quelque parole offensante contre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, contre la famille Impériale, contre le Vali, ou contre le Conseil Général.

En cas de refus, ou de récidive commise par le membre censuré, il sera blâmé et sera, en même temps, invité à faire des excuses au Conseil. S'il ne se soumet pas à cette invitation il sera exclu du Conseil.

Nul, sauf les agents de police en service, ne pourra pénétrer armé dans la salle du Conseil Général. (*Majorité.*)

Art. 79. Les délibérations du Conseil Général seront publiques. En cas de tumulte ou de trouble de*

No. 26.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 62.) *Bugukdéré, July 22, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of some statistical information in regard to the population of North-east Albania, obtained by Mr. St. John, Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend, and forwarded by him to me.

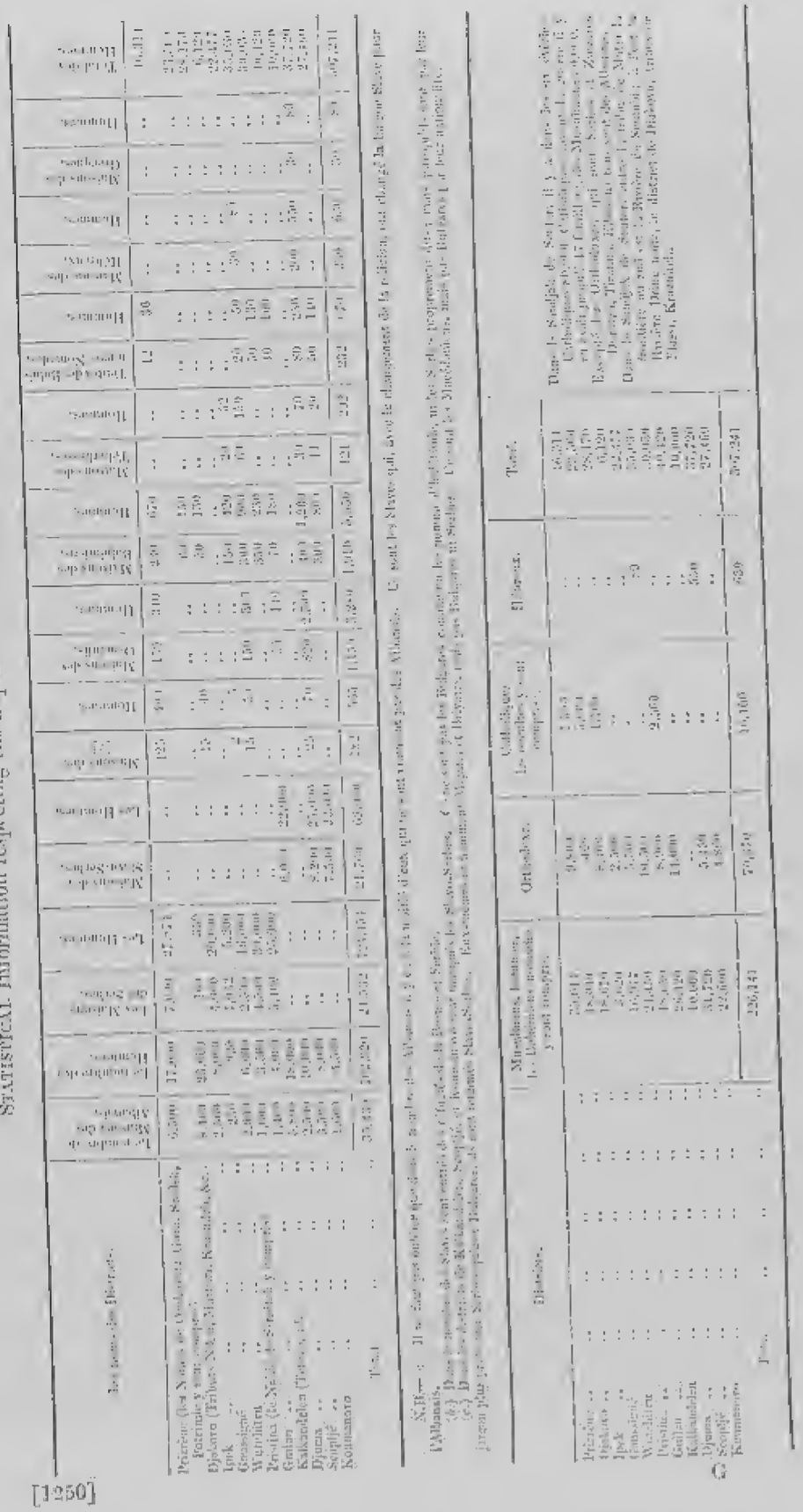
I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

* For continuation, see Lord E. Fitzmaurice's despatch No. .

Inclosure in No. 26.

STATISTICAL Information respecting the Population of North-east Albania.



Les noms des Districts.	Le nombre de Maisons des Albanais.	Le nombre des Hommes.	Les Maisons des Serbes.	Les Hommes.	Maisons des Slavo-Serbes.	Les Hommes.	Maisons des Tchérémiens.	Hommes.	Maisons des Bahréniens.	Hommes.	Maisons des Tchérémiens.	Hommes.	Tentes de Bahréniens Nomades.	Hommes.	Maisons des Hébreux.	Hommes.	Maisons des Grecques.	Hommes.	Total des Hommes.
Prizrène (les Nomes de Oudjakovo, Gora, Sredjé, Potrimle y sont compris)	6,500	17,000	7,000	27,871	..	..	125	400	150	300	240	670	..	..	12	36	..	..	..	16,311
Djakovo (Tribus Nikin, Mustrin, Kouradjé, &c.)	8,400	23,600	100	350	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,500
Ipek	2,500	8,000	4,000	20,000	..	..	15	40	..	..	30	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,170
Gousigné	250	950	7,032	5,200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,120
Wurchitru	2,000	6,000	2,500	16,000	..	..	2	5	..	..	150	420	20	52	..	..	..	..	..	22,477
Pristina (le Nom de Sredjé y compris)	1,000	3,500	4,500	30,000	..	..	15	50	150	300	300	900	60	150	20	50	30	80	..	35,050
Gnilan	1,400	4,000	3,100	25,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	350	230	..	..	50	130	..	..	..	30,030
Kalkandelen (Tetova, &c.)	3,800	18,000	..	..	6,000	22,000	..	..	50	150	70	150	..	..	40	100	..	..	..	40,120
Djuma	2,500	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000
Scopljé	3,500	8,000	..	..	8,200	25,000	25	70	820	2,500	400	1,200	30	70	80	250	200	550	30	30,720
Kounanovo	1,500	4,500	..	..	7,500	15,000	..	..	..	..	300	800	11	20	50	140	..	..	..	27,460
Total	35,450	102,320	21,532	123,151	21,700	65,000	182	565	1,150	3,200	1,910	5,650	121	292	252	670	230	630	30	307,241

N.B.—1. Il ne faut pas oublier que dans le nombre des Albanais il y en a la moitié d'eux qui ne sont venus que des Albanais. Ce sont les Slaves qui, avec le changement de la religion, ont changé la langue Slave pour l'Albanais.

(b.) Dans le nombre des Slaves sont entrés des Cafés-Bosnes et Serbes.

(c.) Dans les Arabes de Kalkandelen, Scopljé et Kounanovo sont marqués les Slavo-Serbes. Ce ne sont pas les Bulgares comme on les nomme d'habitude, ni les Serbes proprement dits; mais parce qu'ils sont pour leur jargon plus près des Serbes que les Bulgares ils sont nommés Slavo-Serbes. Eux-mêmes ils nomment Mégarin et Dréyarin, mais pas Bulgares ni Serbes. Ce sont les Macédoniens, mais pas Bulgares par leur nationalité.

Districts.	Musulmans, Lutheriens, les Bahéniens nomades y sont compris.	Orthodoxe.	Catholique les membres y sont compris.	Hébreux.	Tarif.
Prizrène	35,011	9,800	1,500	..	16,311
Djakovo	18,000	4,400	5,000	..	23,500
Ipek	18,670	8,500	1,500	..	28,170
Gousigné	3,020	2,500	..	..	6,120
Wurchitru	16,977	5,500	..	..	22,477
Pristina	21,450	10,500	..	80	35,050
Gnilan	18,000	8,000	2,500	..	30,030
Kalkandelen	26,120	14,000	..	..	40,120
Djuma	10,000	..	..	..	10,000
Scopljé	31,720	5,450	..	550	37,720
Kounanovo	22,600	4,800	..	..	27,460
Total	226,141	70,650	16,160	630	307,241

Dans le Sandjak de Sector, il y a dans les en évêchés Catholiques [illegible] Catholiques [illegible] en avait jusqu'à 17 familles, des Musulmans [illegible] Exceptés les Orthodoxes, qui sont Serbes et Zaccaros, Dorotea, Tirana, Elbasan, tous sont des Albanais. Dans le Sandjak de Sector, entre la rivière de Mato la frontière [illegible] la Rivière de Sandjak; à l'est la Rivière Dôme nom, le district de Djakovo, traverse Elgeri, Kouradjé.

No. 27.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 63.) *Buyukdéré, July 22, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN regard to the vilayet of the islands, which includes the four European islands of Lemnos, Imbros, Phasos, and Hagiostrati, the following information will, I believe, be found correct:—

Originally the vilayet of the islands included only the islands of the Archipelago, without Crete or Cyprus. The seat of government was at Rhodes. Subsequently, the Sandjak of Biga (Proad) was added to the vilayet, and the seat of government transferred to the Dardanelles.

In January 1877 the Sandjak of Biga was separated from the vilayet of the islands, Cyprus was added, and the seat of government transferred back to Rhodes. Since this, however, it has been transferred to Chio. Consequently, the islands at this moment form a vilayet separate from the mainland.

The Sandjak of Biga originally formed part of the Vilayet of Chudavendigjar (capital Broussa); it was subsequently annexed to the vilayet of the islands, as above mentioned, and has now been united to Constantinople, forming with it the Vilayet of Constantinople. To this vilayet, I understand from Mr. Calvert, the Sandjak of Gallipoli has been added, the apparent idea being to bring both shores of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles under one civil and military administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 28.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 64.) *Buyukdéré, July 22, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE recently had the advantage of reading a despatch of Mr. St. John's (No. 19 of the 5th June, 1880) relating to the population of North-East Albania. In this despatch Mr. St. John says that it is a "popular fallacy," the creation of "European journals," that the country from Prizrend and Ipek, extending eastwards to the Servian frontier, is Albanian, while the real truth is that it is part of Stara, or Old Servia, in which the majority of the inhabitants are of Slav origin and speak a Slavonic dialect, and in no manner share, or are likely to share, in any Albanian national aspirations, being in no small proportion the offspring of apostates, who adopted Islamism to retain their property, and would, with equal facility, change their religion again under similar circumstances.

In my despatches Nos. I have called your Lordship's attention to the undoubted fact that, in the district near Mitrovitza and Pristina, or Korsovopolye, a large body of Orthodox Serbs exists, the last remains of the population which, prior to the great exodus in the end of the seventeenth century, occupied the whole country. But Mr. St. John's statements go far beyond this. He practically claims for the Slav as against the Albanian the greater part, not only of the Korsovopolye, but also of the Metochia, and indeed the whole country up to the line of the Rivers Bistritza and Drin, and of the district of Ljumn, including Ipek and Prisrend, though not Diabrova.

I naturally hesitate to offer any criticisms upon these statements of Mr. St. John, both because of the great personal respect I entertain for his opinion, and also because he possesses a local knowledge of that part of European Turkey which I cannot claim.

I venture, however, to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that the view put forward by him on the above subject is, so far as I have been able to ascertain, one almost peculiar to himself. Every map that I have seen of those districts marks them as Albanian, and not as Slavonic, always excepting the district of Korsovopolye. It is no doubt true that these districts at the end of the seventeenth century were still mainly inhabited by Serbs, and once did form part of the old Servian Kingdom, though M. Hahn is inclined to think that the aboriginal inhabitants were Albanians whom the Serbs dispossessed at a still earlier period of history. It is also highly probable that the present occupants are largely descended from the intermarriage of the Albanian invaders with the conquered Slav population, and that many of the latter gave up Christianity for Mahommedanism in order to keep their property. It is even possible that, were the same disagreeable alternative again presented to them, they might be ready to reverse the process; but I doubt if it is desirable to found arguments upon premises such as these,

which, as I showed in my despatch No. 57, are apt to be found delusive in practice, and in any case are opposed to every sentiment of religious equality. Those Bosniaks who preferred their land to their belief at the time of the Turkish conquest are famous for the tenacity of their faith in the tenets of the Koran. The broad fact, which, it seems to me, outweighs all others, is that the great mass of the inhabitants are unquestionably Mahommedan. Whatever their origin may have been, and even if the majority still speak the Slavo-Serb dialect preferentially to Albanian—a fact which I have heard strongly controverted—and granting them, further, to be in many respects different from the Albanians of the mountains—a fact fully admitted by M. Christophorides (see my despatch No. 57)—nevertheless, they have no real connection with, or moral affinity to, the Serb population around them, and, whether rightly or not, consider themselves Albanian. For political purposes it matters very little whether they do so out of religious fanaticism or from any other motive, and whether historically they are right or wrong in their opinion.

To say that these Albanians ought to understand that they are not Albanians is like the argument so familiar in regard to Macedonia, that the so-called Bulgarophone Greeks ought to be made to understand that they are not Bulgarians.

The population of the Albanian mountains is dependent upon the plains, their pastures and their bazaars, for subsistence, and it would be very dangerous for arguments to be lightly accepted which, at no distant date, might lead to the political separation of the former from the latter, and the loss to the Albanians of the only valuable and fertile land in the country. This would cause an amount of exasperation difficult to realize, and I have myself little doubt that much of what is genuine in the present Albanian movement is owing to the fear that changes are at hand which may end in the loss of access to those valleys upon which the mountaineers depend for life itself. To illustrate what I mean I would refer to the despatch of Captain Sale (No. 15, Political, of the 25th June, 1880) in regard to South Albania, though without committing myself to the particular application there given of the proposition I have mentioned.

In regard to the fact mentioned by Mr. St. John, that the Slavonic population in these districts and in part of Northern Macedonia is not Bulgarian, but Serbo-Slav, I may observe that its accuracy has been admitted by the Russian historian, M. M. A. Malcoff, (the author of a history of the Serbs and Bulgars, and of a series of letters upon these topics which appeared in the "Novoe Vremya" some years ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 29.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 65.) *Buyukdéré, July 25, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a petition addressed to the Commission from the Greeks of Thrace and Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Petition from the Greeks of Thrace and Macedonia.

AU moment où les Grandes Puissances travaillent à améliorer le sort des populations de la Turquie d'Europe, et où la haute Commission Européenne des réformes se réunit à Constantinople, les Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine manqueraient à leur devoir s'ils ne soumettaient point à l'appréciation de cette haute Assemblée quelques considérations, qui sont de nature à la fixer sur leurs vœux et leurs aspirations.

Aux yeux de la nation Grecque les Grandes Puissances sont animées du désir sincère de mettre un terme aux abus administratifs qui affligent la Thrace et la Macédoine sans pour cela relâcher les liens qui unissent ces provinces à l'Administration Centrale et porter atteinte à l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman. Pour mieux accomplir cette œuvre humanitaire elles se proposent d'écarter soigneusement tout ce qui peut donner un caractère national distinct aux contrées qui font l'objet de leur sollicitude; elles affranchiront les populations sans distinction de race et de religion d'un système d'administration condamné

par l'expérience, tout en ayant soin de tenir la balance des intérêts divers en équilibre et d'empêcher que l'une des trois races qui se coudoient dans la Turquie d'Europe n'impose aux autres sa propre domination. En un mot, les Grandes Puissances visent selon les Grecs le *statu quo* amélioré dans le sens d'une parfaite égalité politique, d'une équitable distribution de la justice et d'une sécurité qui ne laisse rien à désirer.

Dans cette croyance ils sont heureux de n'avoir rien à solliciter qui ne soit en parfaite harmonie avec la pensée créatrice de la haute Commission et partant, avec l'intérêt général de l'Europe. N'ambitionnant aucune domination sur les autres nationalités ils se croient par cela même justifiés de se prémunir contre tout principe tendant à subordonner leurs intérêts nationaux à ceux des autres, ou à consacrer la prépondérance politique de leurs concitoyens Turcs ou Bulgares. Tout ce qu'ils demandent, c'est la liberté et l'égalité la plus absolue, afin de pouvoir lutter à armes égales sur le terrain de la paix et du progrès.

Pour laisser au nouvel ordre des choses le temps de se raffermir, il importe avant tout de ne point déranger l'équilibre des races existant en Thrace et en Macédoine. A cet effet il est de toute nécessité de maintenir les grandes divisions établies par le Gouvernement Impérial. La Macédoine, pour être constituée, pourrait à la rigueur comprendre les Vilayets de Salonique et de Monastir, sans aucun remaniement de nature à renforcer un élément au préjudice de l'autre. Les Bulgares réclament instamment que les Sandjaks de Dibra et de Kiortza qui sont habités par une population Greco-Albanaise soient exclus du Vilayet de Monastir, en vue d'affaiblir l'élément Grec de ce vilayet et de se créer ainsi une majorité factice. Ils demandent aussi que ceux de Scopia et de Pristina, qui font partie du Vilayet de Cossovo, soient incorporés dans celui de Monastir ou de Salonique, pour renforcer l'élément Bulgare dans le sud de la Macédoine.

La haute Commission que les Bulgares sollicitent de procéder à ces remaniements territoriaux ne saurait consacrer un principe qui l'exposerait à des demandes sans fin, auxquelles elle pourrait très-difficilement satisfaire; car en vertu de ce même principe les Grecs ne manqueront pas de réclamer de leur côté, que les parties de la Thessalie et de l'Epire qui ne seront pas cédées à la Grèce soient incorporées dans la Macédoine pour refaire l'équilibre que la nouvelle division aura dérangé. D'ailleurs la Haute Commission n'est point tenue à défaire ce qui existe pour favoriser tel ou tel élément: elle irait à l'encontre du but visé par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, dont elle est issue, si elle admettait des arrangements qui outrepasseraient les limites d'une réforme administrative et qui donneraient à la Thrace et à la Macédoine une couleur politique tranchée. Mais en dehors de ces considérations, il y en aurait d'autres d'un ordre encore plus élevé. Le désir des Grandes Puissances étant de jeter en Orient les bases d'un ordre de choses durable et garantissant la tranquillité et le développement graduel des populations, la haute Commission ferait à la fois acte d'équité et de sagesse si elle écartait dès le principe tout ce qui serait de nature à faire naître au sein des populations des velléités de suprématie et de domination des unes sur les autres et à compromettre par conséquent l'avenir. Par la division territoriale actuelle l'équilibre est suffisamment garanti, et tout remaniement en faveur de l'un des trois éléments qui habitent cette contrée créerait des animosités et une situation anormale aux uns et aux autres et provoquerait des tiraillements interminables et des complications dont la conséquence serait le désordre et l'anarchie au lieu de l'ordre et de la tranquillité visés par l'Europe.

Les divisions secondaires connues sous les noms de sandjaks et des Cazas, devraient également être maintenues telles qu'elles existent ainsi que les nahiyés. Sans les sandjaks et les cazas la plupart des nahiyés se trouveraient trop éloignées du chef-lieu de la province, la justice rencontrerait de grandes difficultés et, ce qui est pire encore, les populations rurales échapperaient à la surveillance de l'autorité et deviendraient un instrument dangereux entre les mains des perturbateurs étrangers qui parcourent la Turquie d'Europe et excitent les esprits.

Mais pour être efficaces, ces divisions secondaires ont besoin d'être complètement réformées. Les assemblées électives dont elles sont dotées sont mal composées et ne servent qu'à compliquer le mécanisme administratif. A leur place il faudrait instituer ces Conseils ayant voix consultative et composés du Mutessarif ou du Caïmacam, du Mufti et des Chefs religieux des communautés non-Musulmanes. Il est bon de dire ici que les Bulgares réclament l'exclusion des Muftis du sein de ces Conseils; mais cette demande est faite uniquement pour éliminer les Evêques, dont cependant la présence est indispensable à la défense des Chrétiens contre les tendances arbitraires des gouvernants.

La question de la langue à adopter concurremment avec le Turc attirera l'attention la plus sérieuse de la haute Assemblée. En Thrace, la langue généralement parlée et écrite à côté du Turc est la langue Grecque. Mais en Macédoine on se trouve en présence de

plusieurs idiomes, parmi lesquels, toutefois, il n'y a que le Turc et le Grec qui soient en usage pour la correspondance administrative et commerciale; dans les autres il est impossible de trouver des gens capables d'écrire. Le Grec et le Turc sont d'ailleurs les langues parlées et écrites dans toutes les villes, et on ne saurait imposer à la Macédoine des idiomes qui sont complètement étrangers aux habitants des centres commerciaux, qui manquent de termes scientifiques et qui sont par conséquent impropres à la procédure, sans mettre des entraves à la répartition de la justice et à la marche des affaires en général. Il serait donc juste que la haute Commission adoptât avec le Turc le Grec comme langue de l'Administration dans ces deux provinces.

Pour les détails, le Règlement Organique de l'Ile de Crète pourrait s'appliquer notamment pour la formation des Démogéronties, des Tribunaux, de la gendarmerie, et pour la gestion des fortunes des orphelins. La question des Tribunaux est de la plus haute importance, mais l'honorable Commission la résoudrait équitablement, si elle adoptait un principe d'après lequel les Juges pour les Tribunaux supérieurs doivent être pris parmi les docteurs ou les licenciés en Droit et pour les Tribunaux secondaires parmi les personnes instruites possédant les capacités voulues à cet effet. En ce qui concerne l'emploi des deniers publics, il serait à souhaiter qu'une bonne partie des revenus de ces provinces fût affectée aux travaux d'utilité publique et à l'encouragement de l'instruction.

Une assemblée générale au centre du Gouvernement compléterait le mécanisme administratif. Cette Assemblée serait composée de représentants élus et comprendrait également les Chefs religieux, qui seraient membres de droit, et les Chefs des diverses branches administratives. La présence des Chefs religieux des diverses communautés dans ces Assemblées ainsi que dans les Conseils des Caïmacamliks et des Mutessarifliks est indispensable et ne doit cesser qu'au cas où une Commission Internationale permanente serait instituée dans chaque vilayet.

Le mode d'élection pour la formation des assemblées générales et des Tribunaux sera sans doute l'objet de la plus constante sollicitude de la haute Commission, attendu que la Thrace et surtout la Macédoine présentent une situation toute particulière, qui ne saurait être comparée à celle d'aucun autre pays. Elles contiennent une population fixe, qui représente la propriété terrienne, le commerce, et l'industrie et une population presque nomade qui se compose pour la plupart d'ouvriers agriculteurs, travaillant tantôt dans un vilayet, tantôt dans l'autre. Autant la première est éclairée, autant la seconde est plongée dans l'ignorance; autant l'une est compétente en matière d'administration et préoccupée de contrôle, autant l'autre est inhabile à administrer et peu soucieuse d'ordre et d'économie.

Cette situation n'échappera pas à la perspicacité de la haute Commission, et il est à espérer qu'elle adoptera pour les élections le système, d'après lequel les électeurs sont pris parmi les plus imposés. Ce système, qui est en vigueur dans plusieurs pays civilisés—on peut même dire dans presque toute l'Europe, serait le plus adapté aux besoins des provinces et le plus conforme au degré de développement intellectuel des populations rurales.

En soumettant les considérations qui précèdent à l'appréciation de l'honorable Commission, les Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine se flattent d'espérer que les membres de cette haute Assemblée leur accorderont la bienveillante attention que méritent les vœux modestes d'une population dont l'intérêt national est intimement lié à l'intérêt général de l'Europe et dont la confiance en la justice et en l'équité des Représentants des Grandes Puissances est illimitée.

Le 7 Juillet, 1880.

No. 30.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 66.) *Buyukdéré, July* 25, 1880.

My Lord,

MY telegram of the 23rd instant will have informed your Lordship of the rapid progress which the work of the Commission has recently made. Since the termination of the discussion of the first hundred Articles, it has been found possible to communicate and explain to the Turkish Commissioners before the day of meeting the results of the informal meetings held by the Commissioners of the Five Powers. The Turkish Commissioners thereupon decide what they accept and what they reject, and the last meetings of the Commission have consequently done little more than register agreements previously arrived at.

Article 235 has now been reached. On Wednesday next, the 28th instant, I expect the Articles up to No. 274—everything beyond which the Commission has unanimously rejected—to be finished, and my proposal to insert Chapter 10 of the East Roumelian Statute ("les Cultes") to be discussed. On Saturday, the 31st, I hope the new Chapters on gendarmerie, police, and the reorganization of the Law Courts, may be reached, and settled, if not at that sitting, at the next. The revision of the text of the document may be expected to occupy the following week, after which the Commission, in accordance with its Resolution of the 14th June (see *compte-rendu* No. 3, p. 2), will have to decide to what provinces the new law shall apply. The question of Albania must then come up for consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 31.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 26, 1880.*

I INCLOSE a sketch of the paragraphs relating to Albania, which appear to me would be suitably placed in the "avis" of the Commission accompanying the revised "Projet de Loi."

In regard to the city and *banlieue* of Constantinople, which technically come within the terms of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, I find the almost unanimous feeling of the Commissioners is, that as no Local Commission has been held under the terms of Article XXIII, it would be absolutely impossible for the Commission, as at present advised, to deal with so large a subject, more especially as the Ottoman Commissioners are understood to deny the right of the Commission to touch it, and will consequently refuse both to give information and to summon a Local Commission.

In the case of the Greek Islands situated in Europe, the facts relating to them are so well-known, that the other Commissioners will, I have little doubt, agree with me in thinking that the new "Loi" can be immediately made applicable. Each of them could be treated as forming an administrative district. Phasos is attached to the Vilayet of Salonica.

I propose to ask my colleagues to add some words to the "avis," commenting on the injury done to the provinces by the constant changes in the boundaries of the administrative districts, which ought now to be settled in some definite manner, so as to meet local needs, instead of as at present being constantly shifted about, in order to satisfy the demands of place-hunters, or out of regard to purely military considerations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Draft of Paragraphs relating to Albania.

LA Commission est d'avis que le Projet de Loi ainsi amendé serait applicable aux districts ci-dessous nommés:—

1. Aux sandjaks compris dans les Vilayets d'Andrinople et de Salonique, y compris le Sandjak de Gallipoli et l'Ile de Phasos, et aux Sandjaks de Monastir et de Skopia.

2. Aux Iles d'Imbros, Lemnos, Samothraki, et Hagiostrati, qui aujourd'hui font partie du vilayet des îles, dont la plus grande partie est en Asie.

Quant aux districts habités principalement par des Albanais, c'est-à-dire le pays bordé par le Monténégro, la Bosnie, la Serbie, les Sandjaks de Skopia et de Monastir, la nouvelle frontière Grecque, et la Mer Adriatique, la Commission n'est pas suffisamment renseignée sur les vœux des populations de ces pays pour pouvoir décider de leur sort.

Excepté à Prizrend aucune Commission Locale n'a été réunie d'après les termes de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

La Commission croit donc que la nouvelle loi ne saurait être appliquée que dans ce district (c'est-à-dire, le district compris entre le Monténégro, la Bistritza, le Drin, le district de Ljumn, le Sandjak de Skopia, la Serbie, et la Bosnie), et que des Commissions Locales devraient être réunies à Scutari, Elbassan, et Berat, afin que la Sublime Porte et la Commission soient renseignées sur les besoins locaux de ces pays.

No. 32.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, July 27, 1880.*

I DESIRE to add a few considerations to those advanced in my despatch No. 67 in favour of bringing North-eastern Albania under the new law without any further delay. In my despatch No. 12 I expressed the opinion that the whole of the former Vilayet of Prisrend, which included Dibra, Diakovo, Ipek, Kossovo, Prisrend, and Prischtina, was distinct from the Slavonic countries lying east and south of it, and was predominantly Mahommedan and Albanian in character. Owing to these and other circumstances, I pointed out its great political importance, and I suggested that in consequence it should be treated separately by the Commission. In my despatch No. 22 of the 21st ultimo I informed your Lordship that the districts of Prisrend and Dibra had been cut off from the above vilayet and added to that of Monastir; while, on the other hand, the Sandjak of Scopia had been added to the remains of the Vilayet of Prisrend, and called with it the Vilayet of Kossovo. In my despatch No. 64 I entered into some further details in regard to the Albanian character of Prisrend and the neighbouring country. It is the latter district to which my present remarks apply, forming a portion of the present Vilayets of Monastir and Kossovo, but including neither Dibra nor Diakovo (see the definition in the annex to my despatch No. 67). To this district it will be very difficult to prevent the Porte applying the new law, even if the Commission was to recommend the contrary, because a local Commission has been held at its centre, Prisrend, and because the peculiar tribal and quasi-feudal institutions existing in so much of the rest of Albania do not find a place there. Diakovo, I may observe, is on the opposite bank of the Drin to Prisrend, and I quite agree with Mr. St. John that it belongs to Upper, as distinct from North-eastern, Albania. The administrative machinery of an independent Mutessarifflik would seem to be peculiarly applicable to the latter, at least at present.

But, while proposing the application of the new law to North-eastern Albania, I venture to hope that the Commission will, at the same time, accompany their proposal with some words such as those contained in my despatch No. 67 (see annex), clearly recognizing that the above districts form part of Albania. I believe that ultimately the whole of Albania might be united into one large vilayet under a Governor-General, and divided into four sandjaks, viz., North-east, Upper, Middle, and Lower Albania (see my telegram No. 28), with some special provisions for the tribes in the northern mountains on the Montenegrin frontier. I am inclined to doubt whether an Assembly could be summoned for the whole province, as I cannot see that any town, in the present condition of communications, is sufficiently accessible from all parts of the country for that purpose. There would, however, be local Assemblies in each of the four sandjaks, or Sub-Governorships. The Governor-General, I expect, would need to be far less limited in the exercise of his powers, both in regard to his subjects and the Porte, than the Governor-General under the new law.

With a view to ascertain how far the wishes of the inhabitants extend in this direction, local Commissions, under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, could be held at El Basan, Berat, Scutari, and perhaps Argyrocastro; the Roumelian Commission would meanwhile have to adjourn. The principal objection to this plan is that of delay. On the other hand, I doubt if any premature attempt to apply the Statute to the whole of Albania would succeed.

The condition of affairs in Kossovo and Prisrend is very bad, and getting worse. If there is any delay in applying the reforms there quickly, the position of the inhabitants, except that of a privileged few, will become so intolerable that a foreign occupation will become necessary. Mr. St. John's despatches have informed your Lordship that an Austrian advance is eagerly looked for, and it is impossible to doubt that the contrast between the security for life and property, existing in Bosnia, and the reign of terror in Turkish territory, cannot fail to strike the meanest understanding. I do not myself believe in the Austro-Hungarian Government desiring to advance beyond the Lim, much less to Salonica; but it might find it very difficult to refuse to occupy the country as far as Wurosch and Prisrend if no improvement takes place in the condition of the inhabitants, more especially as the Roman Catholic population is at present the object of a special hostility. There is only one other alternative, namely, a Servian occupation, which, however, could only be carried out after a very severe struggle, and one doubtful in its result. Such an occupation, too, if successful, would probably end in the forcible expulsion of the greater part of the Mahommedan population, a result which I am not prepared to

face with indifference so long as any other way can be found out of the surrounding difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 33.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 3.*)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1880.*

THE Bulgarian Exarch has furnished me with the inclosed memorandum relating to the affairs of his Exarchate and the position of the Bulgarians in Macedonia as regards their Bishops.

The Exarch called upon me a few days ago and explained the object he had had in view in furnishing me with this document.

He is anxious that I should use all my influence with Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice in persuading him to secure the adhesion of as many members of the Eastern Roumelian Commission as possible in favour of a clause in the Statute now being framed which would meet the wishes of the Bulgarians in Macedonia.

Your Lordship is aware of the discussions which have taken place on the subject of the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. It has been contended, and not without much show of reason, that the new organization demanded would afford the means for a very powerful propaganda in favour of the Bulgarian nationality and the future union of a portion of Macedonia with Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Exarch explained to me that at one time the Porte had been well disposed in favour of the establishment of the bishopries in question, but that the disposition of the Porte had latterly changed, a result which, I conceive, can cause little surprise. A Firman, however, exists under which the Bulgarian Christians seem entitled to the privileges which the Exarch now claims should be put into actual practice.

I informed the Exarch, in reply to his request for my assistance as regards the Commission, that I had reason to believe that Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice was in favour of the insertion of a clause such as he wished, and being himself in favour of it, that he would doubtless argue in its favour with his colleagues; that, under these circumstances, I was not prepared to interfere any further myself, and that it was not necessary; that I thought the English Commissioner was perfectly justified in the course he was taking in the interest of the inhabitants of the vilayet; but that, as at present advised, I did not propose to depart from neutrality as regards the question between the Bulgarians and the Greeks; that it could not be denied that the question had a political as well as an administrative and religious side, and that any diplomatic action in favour of his claim would, at the present moment, be interpreted as a step in favour of the development of Bulgarian strength in Macedonia.

I am disposed to think that in the present state of tension between the various parties striving for supremacy in Macedonia Her Majesty's Government will be disposed to observe a policy of neutrality. If I should be in error as to your Lordship's views on this question, I have not taken so decided a line with the Exarch as to prevent me from modifying my attitude towards the claims of the Bulgarians if it should seem expedient to do so.

Till lately it has, I believe, been considered that, looking to the political aspects of the question, the Bulgarian Exarch should be discouraged rather than encouraged in the course he is pursuing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Memorandum.

LA question Bulgare—cette discorde entre le Patriarche Grec et les Bulgares—qui pate depuis un demi-siècle, et qui n'est pas encore épuisée, n'est pas une question religieuse, c'est une question de nationalité, c'est un travail lent, pénible, mais persévérant pour affranchir l'élément Bulgare de l'Hellénisme imposé aux Chrétiens Orthodoxes relevant de la juridiction ecclésiastique du Patriarchat, et pour reconstituer la nationalité Bulgare sous une administration ecclésiastique indépendante du Phanar.

Quand les Turcs ont conquis la Bulgarie, ils avaient peu à peu fini par abolir les eglises autocéphales Bulgares, et par supprimer l'hiérarchie nationale, ce qui réduisit au dernier degré les forces morales de la nation. Le Patriarchat Grec, ayant l'avantage d'être à Constantinople, et profitant des circonstances favorables dans lesquelles il se trouvait auprès de la Sublime Porte, pour s'assurer les droits de l'Eglise Bulgare usurpés d'une manière anticanonique, avait entrepris par les Evêques Grecs qu'il envoyait dans les éparchies Bulgares, la fusion des populations Bulgares dans l'Hellénisme. Cette pensée, inspirée d'abord par vanité et par intérêt plutôt que par des sentiments de prosélytisme national, depuis, sous l'influence de la Grèce indépendante, acquis une plus grande extension et se transforma en la fameuse grande idée, d'après laquelle les Chrétiens de l'Empire Ottoman devaient absolument se fondre avec les Grecs, et se présenter un jour devant le monde comme les successeurs légitimes du Bas-Empire.

Depuis cette époque la conduite des Evêques Grecs devient systématique. Attirer par des flatteries, des menaces, ou des intérêts, les Notables Bulgares chez qui le sentiment national était faible, occasionner par tous les moyens la ruine de tous ceux en qui ils rencontraient de la résistance ou un obstacle, remplacer la langue Slave et la langue Bulgare dans les églises et dans les écoles par la langue Grecque, supprimer tout monument de la littérature ou de l'indépendance politique et ecclésiastique Bulgare; en un mot, faire tout ce qui pourrait le plus tôt applanir la voie de l'Hellénisation de tous les Chrétiens non Grecs: voilà le but constant des Evêques Grecs. C'est ainsi que graduellement ils ont étouffé, surtout dans les villes, la conscience nationale chez les Bulgares, et que la langue Grecque devint la langue des citoyens dans toutes les villes de la Bulgarie du Nord, de la Thrace, et de la Macédoine, de sorte que, il y a un demi-siècle, la propagande Phanariote avait réussi à inspirer chez les populations la conviction que pour qu'un Chrétien puisse être considéré comme citoyen, il doit absolument parler le Grec, le mot Bulgare étant synonyme de paysan et de rustique.

Mais bientôt cette propagande fut arrêté dans son progrès. Quelques Bulgares, qui avaient déjà fait leurs études à Athènes et en Europe, avaient eu l'occasion d'être initiés dans les mystères de la grande idée, et avaient compris le but des Evêques Grecs en Bulgarie. Rentrés dans leur pays, ils ouvrirent les yeux à leurs compatriotes, organisèrent une réaction contre la propagande Hellénique, au moins où ils se sentaient en état de la faire. Depuis 1840, dans des localités isolées, la lutte contre l'Hellénisme est engagée, lutte qui, dans quelques temps, s'étendit tellement que bientôt, dans les pays qui forment actuellement la Principauté Bulgare et la Roumélie Orientale, partout la langue Slave et la langue Bulgare ont été introduites dans les églises et dans les écoles. Néanmoins, dans la Thrace méridionale, où les populations Bulgares sont en contact avec la population Grecque, et en Macédoine, où elles étaient faibles sous le rapport social et économique et plus voisines de la Grèce, elles n'ont pas pu s'enfranchir de l'influence des Evêques Grecs, et prendre dans la lutte une part suffisamment active.

L'expérience a prouvé aux Chefs des Bulgares que le succès ne peut être assuré si l'on ne fait disparaître la principale cause du mal, notamment, si l'on n'éloigne pas des éparchies Bulgares les Evêques Grecs qui étaient les plus zélés et les plus puissants acteurs de l'Hellénisme, et qui représentaient légalement, et devant le Gouvernement et devant l'Europe ses ouailles, comme Grecques. Par suite de cette conviction, les Bulgares ont changé de tactique, et ont tourné leurs efforts pour entrer en possession de leurs anciens droits canoniques, et remplacer les Evêques Grecs par des Evêques nationaux, par lesquels seulement, à cause de l'ordre théocratique en Turquie, ils pouvaient se faire reconnaître comme une nation distincte de la nation Grecque dans l'Empire. C'est alors, en 1860, que la lutte contre l'Hellénisme entre dans une nouvelle phase, et revêt une forme officielle ecclésiastique sous le nom de "question Bulgare."

Cette lutte, dans sa nouvelle phase, a été continuée avec beaucoup de persistance et d'unanimité dans l'espace de douze ans, jusqu'à ce que la Sublime Porte, placée dans la nécessité de se prononcer, a donné droit aux Bulgares par un Firman Impérial Constitutif de l'Exarchat. Dans ses limites le Firman faisait entrer seize éparchies qui avaient déjà rompu toute relation avec le Patriarchat de Constantinople, et donnait, en outre, le droit de s'annexer à l'Exarchat à celles des éparchies dont les deux tiers de la population Chrétienne se prononcerait en faveur de l'Exarchat, et qu'on a appelées pour cette raison des éparchies mixtes.

A la suite de ces succès, quoique non complets, des Bulgares, le Patriarchat de Constantinople, voyant qu'il ne reste aucune possibilité pour l'Hellénisme d'espérer quelque chose des seize éparchies dont l'Exarchat fut constitué, a exprimé, avec quelques réserves, la disposition de faire droit aux vœux légitimes des Bulgares; mais quant au Firman, quoiqu'il favorisât les Grecs en prescrivant que seulement celles des éparchies dont les deux tiers de la population Chrétienne forme la majorité Bulgare, auront le droit de

s'annexer à l'Exarchat, le Patriarchat sachant que les éparchies de la Macédoine et quelques-unes de la Thrace méridionale sont peuplées en grande majorité par des Bulgares, et qu'elles seront perdues pour l'Hellénisme, refusa catégoriquement de reconnaître le Firman Impérial, et se décida à employer le dernier moyen qui était en son pouvoir pour conserver, sous sa domination ces éparchies, c'est-à-dire, à proclamer schismatiques ceux qui veulent s'annexer à l'Exarchat, et d'user de ses derniers efforts pour empêcher le développement de la nationalité Bulgare en Macédoine et en Thrace méridionale. Dans ce but, d'une part, il a soulevé, par ses Evêques, dans les éparchies une persécution systématique contre les professeurs Bulgares dans toutes les localités qui avaient réussi à ouvrir des écoles, en les représentant au Gouvernement comme hostiles et révolutionnaires; d'autre part, il a encouragé la formation de syllogues et de sociétés littéraires Grecques, pour placer dans les endroits les plus importants des maîtres et des maîtresses d'école envoyés gratis de la Grèce pour propager la langue Grecque au détriment du Bulgare, et tâcher de toute façon d'Helléniser la population Bulgare.

Dans cette lutte nationale des populations Bulgares contre le despotisme abrutissant de l'Eglise de Phanar, la Sublime Porte avait gardé une attitude bienveillante envers les premiers pour affaiblir le Patriarchat, qu'il considérait encore comme très-fort, et pour amener la division religieuse parmi les Bulgares par les propagandes étrangères. Six mois après l'institution de l'Exarchat arrive au Grand Vizirat Midhat Pacha. Avec lui change la politique Ottomane envers la nationalité Bulgare. On avait vu le progrès que les Bulgares avaient fait depuis vingt ans dans l'instruction et dans le sentiment national. On a cru que la réunion de tous les Bulgares sous un Chef religieux leur donnerait une force morale qui ne serait pas bonne pour l'avenir de l'Empire, et que l'élément Grec dispersé sur le littoral des mers ne présente pas un si grand danger qu'on l'avait cru d'abord. La Sublime Porte encouragea donc le schisme, favorisa son application dans les seize éparchies occupées par des Evêques Bulgares, en même temps qu'elle arrêta l'exécution du Firman concernant les éparchies dont les deux tiers voudraient s'annexer à l'Exarchat; c'est-à-dire, qu'elle ne permît pas, malgré le Firman et malgré le schisme qui rompait toute communication entre les deux Eglises, l'extension de l'Exarchat en Thrace méridionale et en Macédoine, parce qu'elle a vu que le schisme ne divisait point les Bulgares. Dans l'espace de cinq ans à peine l'Exarchat réussit-il à s'annexer les éparchies d'Ochrida et de Scopié, sous le second Grand Vizirat de Mahmoud Nedim Pasha; tout le reste n'a été que des revers. Les Grecs voulant renverser l'Exarchat, l'attaquaient de toutes leurs forces, le calomniaient et ne manquaient pas de lui attribuer tout ce qui arrivait de désagréable à la Sublime Porte.

Tel était l'état de l'Eglise Bulgare avant la guerre. Après le Traité de Berlin l'Exarque vint à Constantinople sonder les dispositions de la Sublime Porte. Celle-ci refusa de lui permettre d'envoyer des Evêques en Macédoine. Il retourna alors à Philippopoli et fit reconnaître l'existence de l'Eglise Bulgare dans le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale élaboré par la Commission Européenne. Ensuite il revint dans la capitale réclamer de nouveau ses droits ecclésiastiques en Macédoine, et demanda la permission d'envoyer des Evêques au moins dans les éparchies d'Ochrida, de Scopié, de Vétess et de Schtip, qu'il avait déjà sous sa juridiction avant la guerre, et qui se sont trouvées vacantes soit à cause de mort, soit à cause de destitutions des Evêques. Jusqu'à présent la Sublime Porte refusa sous différents prétextes, tandis qu'elle prête ouvertement son concours aux Evêques Grecs pour éteindre l'influence de l'Exarchat en Macédoine.

Il est probable, pour ne pas dire certain, que la Porte désire maintenir en Macédoine le clergé Grec parce que celui-ci est tellement ennemi des Bulgares qu'il ne veut pas même qu'on sache qu'il y a là des Bulgares et qu'il fera tout son possible pour étouffer leur progrès national.

Il y a déjà un demi-siècle que les Bulgares luttent pour s'affranchir du despotisme abrutissant du clergé Grec; il y a douze ans que la Sublime Porte a reconnu la justice de leur cause par un Firman Impérial, qui est censé être mis en exécution; il y a neuf ans que le Patriarchat a proclamé l'Exarchat schismatique, ainsi que tous les Chrétiens Orthodoxes qui le reconnaissent, néanmoins un million et demi de Bulgares gémissent encore sous l'oppression du clergé Grec, malgré leurs réclamations et leurs pétitions innombrables et constamment réitérées depuis vingt ans, quoique d'ailleurs la liberté religieuse existe dans l'Empire Ottoman pour toutes les propagandes religieuses du monde. Pour mettre fin à cette tyrannie et pour donner satisfaction à un vœu si légitime des Bulgares, il n'y a pas une meilleure occasion que celle que présente la Commission Européenne pour les réformes. Dans le Statut élaboré pour la Macédoine elle peut, par un Article, confirmer aux communautés Bulgares le droit de reconnaître l'Exarchat et d'en recevoir des Evêques, conformément à l'Article LXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Toutes les Puissances qui veulent, sans arrière-pensée, l'émancipation et le progrès du

peuple Bulgare, doivent se prononcer en faveur des pétitions Bulgares adressées dans ce but à la Commission des Réformes siégeant actuellement à Constantinople.

Constantinople, le $\frac{27 \text{ Juin}}{9 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Article 10 *of the "Firman Constitutif de l'Exarchat Bulgare."*

L'EXARCHAT Bulgare comprendra les éparchies de Roustchouq, Silistria, Chomula, Tirnova, Sophia, Vratza, Toultcha, Vidin, Nich, Charkeuï, Kustendil, Samakov, Velissa (Keuprulu), Philippopoli, le Mutessariflik d'Islimné et le caza de Sosopoli, excepté environ une vingtaine de villages sur le bord de la Mer Noire entre Varna et Kustendjé, qui sont peuplés d'habitants non Bulgares; excepté aussi les villes de Varna, Anchialo et Mésembrie, les villages sur le bord de la Mer Noire du caza de Sosopoli, les villes de Philippopoli et de Stanimaka avec les villages de Kouklin, Vodin, Arnaout-keuï, Panaguia, Novo-Celo, Leskovo, Ahlian, Batchovo, Béliastitza, et les couvents de Batchcova, des Saints Anarguiri, de Sainte Paraskéva et de Saint-Georges. La Sainte Panaguia (Sainte Marie), dans l'intérieur de Philippopoli, entrera dans l'Exarchat, mais ceux des habitants de cette paroisse qui ne voudront pas se soumettre à l'Exarchat, seront libres. Les details sur ce point seront réglés conformément aux constitutions ecclésiastiques et religieuses entre le patriarchat et l'Exarchat.

Hors les lieux ci-dessus énumérés et nommément cités, si les habitants d'autres endroits, professant le rite Orthodoxe, veulent unanimement, ou au moins les deux tiers de la population, se soumettre à l'Exarchat Bulgare, et que, après examen, il soit démontré que cela est vrai, leur demande doit être admise. Et comme une telle demande doit être faite par tous les habitants ou au moins par les deux tiers d'entre eux, ceux qui tenteraient de semer la discorde parmi les habitants seront responsables devant la loi.

No. 34.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 178.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 26, 1880.

THE time is rapidly approaching when the Eastern Roumelian Commission, which is working with the greatest energy and ability, will have so far completed its labours as to make it necessary to consider what steps it would be most expedient to take as to applying the same, or an analogous "Projet de Loi" as that now being worked out for Adrianople and Salonica, to the remaining vilayets in European Turkey. Amongst other questions, it will have to be settled how the provinces inhabited by Albanians should be dealt with, a question which must be considered both from the point of view of general politics and from the point of view of local wants.

The situation is complicated by the manner in which the fate of part of the inhabitants of Albanian territory has become involved in the pending cessions of territory to Montenegro, and also by the excitement produced among the Albanians by the proposed cession of Janina district and other points claimed by the Albanians as being inhabited by men of their race, to Greece; and if I have delayed addressing your Lordship on the general subject of the future of the Albanian territory which will remain to Turkey, it has been in the hope of seeing some light as to the settlement of the frontier disputes, and thus being better able to deal with the subject in all its bearings, both in reference to general politics and to the special wants of the districts in question.

The question as to the best mode of dealing with the Albanians of the Vilayet of Scutari, and especially of the Roman Catholic tribes, has been partially considered by Her Majesty's Government, on the initiative of Mr Kirby Green, in connection with the cession of Dulcigno to the Montenegrins.

It was thought that the grant of administrative reforms to this vilayet, with more independence from Turkish control, would induce the Albanians to submit quietly to the surrender.

I am not aware to what extent Mr. Green and his Austrian colleague were able to ascertain the views of the Albanians, nor to what extent it can be said that negotiations took place. Mr. Green, so far as he is accredited to the Porte, was naturally in a very delicate situation in treating with the League or with other Albanian Chiefs, who were

subjects of the Porte, and I am not aware how far the plan worked out by Mr. Green for the Government of the Northern Albanians, as suggested to your Lordship in his despatch, had been carefully considered and adopted by the Albanians themselves. However, in accordance with the instructions of our respective Governments, the Representatives of the Signatory Powers have suggested to the Porte, when the cession of Dulcigno was proposed, that the Albanians should be pacified by reforms which would satisfy their legitimate aspirations. The Porte replied that they were not aware that any special reforms were demanded, but that the reforms which were now being worked out by the Eastern Roumelian Commission would be applied to the Albanian provinces.

I have reported to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 97, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, how Abédine Pasha explained to me that the North Albanians already enjoyed great independence of the Porte, and immunities both as to recruiting and taxation, and that the only new privilege to which they would attach value would be that the Porte should name Albanians to the various official positions in the Albanian vilayets.

Latterly, it would appear that the Porte has been straining every nerve to confirm the Albanians in their loyalty by cajolery, and indeed, as far as I can judge, by every other means except a promise of more independence. At the same time, the excitement among the Albanians appears to have increased on all sides. Though there is conflicting evidence as to actual steps taken by the Turkish Government, or its Agents, at successive stages of the movement, it is quite clear that the movement itself was stimulated by the authorities, and equally clear that the fire thus kindled now burns more fiercely than is agreeable to the Turks themselves. If it is contended that this cannot be so, as the Porte continues to support the Albanians, the contention cannot be accepted as a proof. It is equally probable that the authorities now feel themselves compelled to give support, on pain of the Albanians emancipating themselves altogether from control.

Whatever the history of the movement may be, I venture to submit to your Lordship, as I have done before, that the Albanian excitement cannot be passed over as a mere manœuvre conducted by the Turks in order to mislead Europe, and evade its will.

Nor can it be denied that the Albanian movement is perfectly natural. As ancient and distinct a race as any by whom they are surrounded, they have seen the nationality of these neighbouring races taken under the protection of various European Powers, and gratified in their aspirations for a more independent existence. They have seen the Bulgarians completely emancipated in Bulgaria, and made masters in Eastern Roumelia. They have seen the ardent desire of Europe to liberate territory inhabited by Greeks from Turkish rule. They have seen the Slavs in Montenegro protected by the great Slav Empire of the North with enthusiastic pertinacity. They see the Eastern question being solved on the principle of nationality, and the Balkan Peninsula being gradually divided, as it were, among various races on that principle. Meanwhile, they see that they themselves do not receive similar treatment. Their nationality is ignored, and territory inhabited by Albanians is handed over in the north to the Montenegrins, to satisfy Montenegro, the protégé of Russia, and in the south to Greece, the protégé of England and France.

Exchanges of territory are proposed, other difficulties arise, but it is still at the expense of Albanians, and Albanians are to be handed over to Slavs and Greeks without reference to the principle of nationality.

I am putting very roughly the case of the Albanians, in order to illustrate the natural character of their resistance to the will of Europe. It does not appear to me to be an artificial or even a blameworthy attitude. It is one which is the natural outcome of the general movement in the Balkan Peninsula.

Your Lordship was good enough to forward me a memorandum from Captain Sale, in which he proposes a plan for meeting Albanian resistance. He proposes that Agents of the British Government should work on the fears of the Albanians as to their private property and as to their future, according as they may consent or not to a portion of their brethren being handed over by Europe to an alien race. If they consent to cease from being troublesome, they are to receive guarantees that their private property would be secured to them. If they persist in being troublesome and unreasonable, they are to be given to understand that they must not be surprised if their property is confiscated, and, further, if troubles arise under which they might find their villages uprooted and their mosques destroyed. Also, it might be hinted that they would incur a further penalty in the contraction of their boundary. I felt sure, when I read these suggestions, that such penal treatment of the Albanians could not commend itself to Her Majesty's Government, and that it would certainly not be their intention to arrive at the most desirable result of preventing the outbreak of hostilities by giving the Albanians to understand that if such an outbreak occurred they must be prepared for consequences which would be a disgrace to

the Greeks, or to the Christian population which supported the Greeks. Still, as the memorandum contained the suggestion that a British Agent should be employed to influence the Albanians by fear as to the private and not only the political consequences of resistance, and as this memorandum will remain on record amongst the Archives of the Embassy, I have thought it my duty to record my strong protest against the plan it contains.

But I have dwelt on this point for a further reason. I have availed myself of the opportunity which has been offered me by the discussion of the plan to crush the resistance of the Albanians by threats seldom, if ever, used under such circumstances, to point out that, in my judgment, the Albanians do not deserve specially penal treatment, because, after all, in their attitude of resistance, and in their deep-rooted objection to a portion of their countrymen being handed over to an alien rule, they are simply acting on the same principles of nationality as have formed the basis of the recent treatment of the Eastern question, and on which its further solution will probably be worked out.

Analogous considerations lead me to the conclusion, which I humbly venture to submit to your Lordship, that the Albanian nationality is an element which ought not to be overlooked in any future political combinations. On the contrary, I believe it may be utilized with much advantage to general interests, and accordingly I should deprecate any partial measures which would be likely to impede the formation of one large Albanian province.

If it is premature, or if it is impossible, to construct such a province now, I would certainly abstain from any measures which would make the impossibility permanent, or would at least cause future difficulties. I would recommend that the formation of a united Albanian province should at least always be kept in view.

One of the political advantages to be derived from such a plan appears to me to be that it will facilitate the future settlement of the Eastern question in Europe, by covering a further large portion of the territory still under Turkish rule by an organization which can easily be cut loose from the Sublime Porte. As often as the question of the breaking up of Turkish rule comes to the front, the difficulty arises, what is to take its place? What Great Power is to step in? To whom can the provinces still remaining to Turkey in Europe be safely assigned? The difficulty, it appears to me, is gradually settling itself. The Bulgarians and Roumelians from the North, the Greeks from the South, are closing in upon the provinces still under Mussulman rule. The population in this zone is not specially warlike. Besides, the Bulgarians and Greeks are very numerous in many directions. The main force of Mussulman rule in Turkey will henceforward be in Albania, and in Albania alone. The Turks fully recognize this fact. If they lose Albania they consider their end has come, as far as Europe is concerned. That is what they consider their desperate dilemma at the present moment. If they do not yield, a storm will burst over their heads which must annihilate their power. If they do yield, the Albanians, in their anger at their abandonment, will break loose themselves, and if Albania is gone the rule of Turkey in Europe is over. This is their own reasoning, and it seems to me very forcible. The life of Turkey in Europe thus depends on the tie which binds Albania to it. Carrying this view somewhat further, I hold it to be wise, looking to future contingencies, that if this tie should at any time have to be cut, with all its attendant consequences, the limb thus severed may be able at once to enter on an independent existence. After that, little would remain to be done but to settle the fate of Constantinople itself.

If the foregoing reasoning be correct, your Lordship will see at once that another advantage would have been secured. If a strong Albania should be formed, the excuse for occupation by a foreign Power in the case of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire would be greatly weakened. A united Albania would bar the remaining entrances to the North, and the Balkan Peninsula would remain in the hands and under the sway of the races who now inhabit it. Otherwise, the Albanians might be an insuperable difficulty at a time when troubles should arise. A population, in great part Mussulman, would be a source of the greatest difficulty to the Slav or Greek countries around it. A European Power alone would be strong enough to deal with them and to keep order. I consider that, in proportion as the Albanian nationality could be established, the probability of European intervention in the Balkan Peninsula would be diminished.

I trust that I have made it clear to your Lordship why, holding these views, I deprecate any half measures which would interfere with the larger plan, and as I should wish to build on the basis of race rather than of religion, I should be sorry to exclude the Roman Catholic tribes of the North by making arrangements for them which would separate them from the great bulk of Albanians.

I can well understand that the view might be strongly supported that it would be wise to break up the Albanians, who are a difficult race to manage; that it would be wise

to separate those of the North from those of the South, and to attempt rather to widen the existing differences than to bridge them over, but such a view would be totally opposed to what I have ventured to submit.

I may add that if, when events have further developed, it should be considered possible to attach Albania by a dynastic link to Greece, such a course would be perfectly compatible with the policy which I have recommended. My wish is simply to cover the territory now inhabited by Albanians with an organization capable of existing by itself, admitting easy severance from the Turkish rule, and offering capacity for resistance to influences from without.

The length of this despatch precludes me from examining the question how far there may be impediments to the welding together of the North and South Albanians, but the best information which I have received leads me to believe that the amalgamation can certainly be brought about.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 35.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1880.*

SINCE I wrote my despatch No. 178 of yesterday's date on the subject of Albania, I have had the opportunity of reading Lord E. Fitzmaurice's very able despatches Nos. 64 and 67 of the 22nd and 26th instant, in the former of which he deals with the character of the population of the districts near Prisrend and Ipek, while in the latter he states his views as to the extent to which the Eastern Roumelian Commission should recommend the application of their Statute to provinces inhabited by Albanians. I have also had the advantage of conversing with his Lordship on the latter point.

I beg to state to your Lordship that I entirely agree with the view of Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, that it would be inexpedient simply to extend the new law as it stands to all the provinces in question. Apart from the argument that no Local Commissions have examined the Statute, as is required by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Statute itself would be adapted to the capacities and the peculiarities of the Albanian mountaineers. I therefore trust that the majority of the Commission may share the view of the English Commissioner, and refuse to recommend the general application of the law.

I am myself even doubtful as to the expediency of applying the law to the one Albanian district to which Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice states in his draft paragraphs (Inclosure in No. 67) he would alone confine its operation—I mean the district of Prisrend, as defined by him, where a Local Commission has sat. There is no part of the country which is in a wilder condition, as the despatches of Mr. St. John amply testify, and it appears to me to be somewhat of an experiment to apply the principles of Local Government which are suitable for the more developed and civilized provinces to a population in so wild a state.

One of the main objects of the Projet de Loi is to place more power in the hands of the people themselves, though precautions have been taken, as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice has explained to me, to leave sufficient authority in the hands of the Vali in cases of urgency. Still, it is questionable whether the district in the neighbourhood of Prisrend does not require a very strong hand to govern it, and further, whether the Mussulmans, being in a large majority in the district described in Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's despatch, would be kept in sufficient check by the provisions of the Statute as regards the treatment of the Christian minority. Fanatical oppression of a minority is quite as likely—indeed, I think is more likely—to be exercised by a wild and ignorant majority endowed with a large measure of popular institutions than by a Governor invested with strong administrative powers. Even in Bulgaria and Roumelia, it has been seen that Statutes drawn with a view of protecting the Mussulman minority in the undisturbed enjoyment of political and social rights have been inadequate to meet that object, and I should consider that unless governed by a very strong hand indeed, there is a danger that the Albanians of the north-east might not behave better to their Christian fellow-citizens under an Organic Statute than they do now.

However, there is force in Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's argument, that as a Local Commission has sat at Prisrend, and, as the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin makes no exceptions, the Commission would scarcely be able to refuse the application of the

Statute if the Turks desire it. Where no Local Commissions have sat the course is clear.

I should myself have preferred that the Organic Statute should for the present not be applied to any part of Albania, not only for the reasons which I have already stated, but on the ground that I am reluctant to see distinctions made in the treatment of different parts of Albania which may prevent the various districts comprised in Albania being dealt with as a whole. However, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice will endeavour to meet this difficulty as far as it may be possible to do so. He will endeavour (unless your Lordship should desire a different policy to be pursued) to keep in view that it may be desirable to treat the district to which the Projet de Loi is now to be applied simply as a part of a larger whole, and he will consider whether some specific statement regarding the provinces inhabited by Albanians may not be inserted in the "avis" which the Commissioners will have to give.

The importance of the district in question to Albania is amply illustrated in Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's despatch No. 64 of the 22nd instant, and I would only add to his Lordship's remarks on that point that, besides the local importance as regards pastures and supplies to which he alludes, and which would cause the separation of this district from the remainder of Albania to be severely felt, its strategical and political consequences should also be fully considered. I believe Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice has called your Lordship's attention to this aspect of the question in a previous despatch. It is the district which would first fall into the hands of Austria if that Power should make any advance. Indeed, I gather from Mr. St. John's expressions that he considers that the occupation of the district by a strong European Power may be the only means of saving it from a state of anarchy dangerous to all Christians interspersed among the Mussulman majority, and that Austria is the European Power to whose lot the duty of keeping some kind of order in the province would naturally fall.

In any case, it must certainly be borne in mind that there is no spot within the the Balkan Peninsula, the future organization and disposal of which is pregnant with more important consequences, from its peculiar geographical position, lying as it does between Montenegro and Servia, flanking both these Powers with a fierce Mussulman population, and commanding the lines of communication which would lead south.

The difficulties surrounding the whole question of Albania are so great, and the available information so scanty, that great caution is certainly necessary in expressing any judgment, especially as to the best form of Government, and as to the institutions which can be safely granted; but, on the other hand, it will soon be necessary to come to some decision, and it will be important both to myself and to Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to know whether Her Majesty's Government, on the whole, incline to the policy of keeping the union of the Albanian provinces and the development of the Albanian nationality in view as an object which it would be wise to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 36.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney reporting upon the state of affairs in the Province of Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, July 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that about 102 artillery recruits arrived here Sunday last by the Austrian steamer. The same steamer also brought 405 cases of clothing and ammunition.

The Albanians who came to Prevesa the day that Captain Sale arrived are still here, and several more have come in, their number having swelled to about eighty.

Vessel Bey, I am told, is expected to return here shortly.

Zeki Pasha, Commander of the troops in Epirus, came here the other day, and is still at Prevesa.

The Greeks appear somewhat active with their military preparations; enlistments are going on at Caravoparé, and several Christians from Prevesa and from Arta have crossed over to the Greek side in order to enter the Greek army. The number of Greek troops along the Acarnanian frontier is at the present moment as follows:—

Vonitza	60
Caravoparé	150
Anino	350
Total	560

And belong to the corps of "Efzonis;" seventy gendarmes are also stationed at Santa Maure-Warkhi; stores have also been sent to Caravoparé from Agrinium, and I am told by Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio that arms and ammunition from the fort of Santa Maura were during night-time landed on the coast of Epirus near Kanali by Greek naval officers not many days ago.

The impression that both Austria and Italy are somehow averse to the cession of this part of Epirus to Greece appears to be gaining ground here; perhaps the Vice-Consuls of those two Powers have given cause for this impression to take root.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 37.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 184.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1880.*

I REFERRED in my despatch No. 162 to a meeting of the Ambassadors which was about to be held on the afternoon of the 20th instant. It was intended to discuss the draft answer to the Turkish note on Armenia, and also the note received from the Porte on the alleged persecution of the Mussulmans in Bulgaria.

The latter subject gave rise to a long conversation, but as the attitude of the Turks in the Greek and Montenegrin questions was also discussed very fully, and it was considered of primary importance that the Ambassadors should respectively communicate all the information they had received, and the impressions they had formed on these pressing questions, it was in the end agreed that the draft reply on the Armenian question should be circulated, and each Ambassador make in writing his suggestions or comments on the draft. All the Representatives of the Signatory Powers have now seen the draft except the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, and, I think, your Lordship may assume that it will be adopted by all, and recommended to their Governments almost as it stands.

On the question of the Bulgarian note, there was not the same unanimity. M. Novikow was very anxious to know what course would be pursued by each of us, and stated his wish that we should all follow the same course; but it was soon apparent that this was impossible, unless the note was to be entirely ignored. His Excellency made a strong appeal to me, that as he had ultimately made concessions on the question of the inquiry which I had pressed in the case of Eastern Roumelia, I should on this occasion adopt his views, but I felt precluded from making any such promise. I admitted that it was impossible to ask for the disarmament of Bulgaria, and that such a demand must be rather looked upon as a protest and not as seriously meant, but I could not agree to the view of the Russian Ambassador, that whether there had been atrocities, as alleged, or not, and indeed, whatever had happened, not even remonstrances or inquiries should be made. His view was that his previous objections to inquiry in the case of Eastern Roumelia were of even much greater force in the case of Bulgarians, where "a dynasty" was being established; and that it would be wrong to take any steps which might injure the prestige of the new Government; that justice must take its ordinary course, and diplomatic action be avoided as much as possible.

I concurred in the view, that if the Powers were satisfied that justice was really being done, and that the alleged outrages were being energetically and seriously investigated by the Bulgarian authorities, we might wait to see the result; but I could not on the other hand deny that the Turks would be justified in making an appeal to the Powers for their

influence and their interference, if the Powers denied the Turks the right of interfering on behalf of their co-religionists themselves.

In the end it was settled that each of us must follow his own course, only endeavouring to avoid divergency as far as it could possibly be done.

In the meantime, the Porte has addressed a further note to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, of which I inclose a copy. The incidents to which it relates are practically included in what have been called the Aidos outrages, and are nothing new; I have forwarded a copy to Mr. Lascelles.

I inclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Lascelles, and would call your Lordship's special attention to his despatches Nos. 85, 87, 90, and 100, in which he draws attention to these very occurrences. Mr. Lascelles has since then telegraphed, in reply to a question which I put to him, that he had not yet received a copy of the Report of General Ehrnrooth. The Prince of Bulgaria promised Mr. Lascelles that a copy of the Report should be communicated to him some days before the 15th June. The delay seems very long.

I saw Colonel Borthwick yesterday, who served on the Aidos Commission; he tells me that the Commission abstained entirely from going into any occurrences which happened on the Bulgarian side, so that the Report will not assist towards clearing up the events at Bellova. From what Colonel Borthwick told me he had heard while engaged on the inquiry very serious outrages must have occurred, and it will be very interesting to ascertain what the Bulgarian authorities have done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 21 Juillet*, 1880.

IL résulte des informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte que, loin de mettre un terme aux vexations qu'ils font subir à leurs compatriotes Musulmans, les Bulgares continuent à les maltraiter avec animosité de plus en plus croissante.

Dernièrement les Musulmans de Billova, à la suite de la sécheresse de cette année, se rendaient, selon l'usage, au Village d'Akhallis pour y faire des prières publiques, lorsque des miliciens Bulgares, appuyés par les habitants des localités avoisinantes, tombèrent sur Billova, le pillèrent et le dévastèrent complètement; la plupart des habitants, hommes ou femmes, furent mis à mort par les agresseurs, qui ne se retirèrent qu'après avoir commis des actes révoltants et en emmenant avec eux plus de 200 femmes et enfants qu'ils dirigèrent sur les villages de Cadi, de Konch-Tepen et de Tchiplak, dépendants du district de Pravadi.

Ceux des infortunés habitants de Billova qui ont échappé au massacre viennent de présenter une requête à la Sublime Porte pour lui exposer leur situation et réclamer la restitution de leurs biens.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence je la prie de vouloir bien le signaler à la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et le prier de faire à Sophia des représentations énergiques pour la punition des coupables et la restitution aux habitants de Billova des effets et objets qui leur ont été volés.

Quant à empêcher le renouvellement de pareils actes, je m'en réfère à ma note Circulaire du 15 Juillet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Mr. Goschen to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Therapia, July 22, 1880.*

I INCLOSE the copy of a somewhat singular note which has been sent by the Porte in identic language to all the Representatives of the Signatory Powers here in Constantinople. The object of the note is variously interpreted by my colleagues, the suggestion of a disarmament of the Bulgarians at the end of the note giving to some of them the impression that the note is not seriously meant at all.

In any case, it appears rather controversial than practical.

You will observe that no dates are given. I shall ask the Porte to supply them.

A rough examination of the papers seems to show that it is the Aidos affair which forms the main subject of complaints, and in all probability I shall not reply to the note till the decision of the Commission now inquiring into the matter has been made public.

In the meantime, I should be much obliged to you if you would let me know your views very fully on the subject of the note in general. I have been reperusing your despatches of this year.[c] These despatches show that you have not ignored the occurrences in question, and also that you have thought them of sufficient importance to remonstrate with the Prince on the subject.

The note suggests that the Consuls at Sophia should visit the localities. As far as any joint action on the part of the Powers is concerned, it is out of the question. Russia would positively refuse to act, and would induce other Powers to refrain also.

I am writing to Lord Granville as to the answer which it may be ultimately right to send, but he will doubtless be as anxious as I am to know your views, both as to the facts alleged and as to the expediency of following them up.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 38.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 185.) *Therapia, July 27, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 165 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Porte's reply to the collective note embodying the decision of the Conference of Berlin on the Turco-Greek boundary, which has just reached me.

I have, &c.

(For Mr. Goschen),

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Answer of the Porte to the Collective Note.

Sublime Porte, le 26 Juillet, 1880.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, de Russie, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, de la France, et le Ministre d'Autriche-Hongrie lui ont addressée en date du 15 de ce mois relativement à la rectification de la frontière Hellénique.

Par cette note leurs Excellences rappellent les négociations directes tentées à deux reprises par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans et Helléns en vue de parvenir à une entente sur cette question; elles déclarent que, en présence de ces tentatives infructueuses, les Puissances désignées par le Traité de Berlin ont jugé nécessaire d'offrir leur médiation et ont prescrit à leurs Représentants réunis en Conférence à Berlin de fixer une ligne-frontière entre la Grèce et la Turquie; elles communiquent au Soussigné le texte de l'Acte qui a résumé et clos les délibérations des Plénipotentiaires et par lequel ces derniers ont soumis à leurs Gouvernements le tracé qu'ils ont adopté à l'unanimité afin qu'ils voulussent bien approuver leur décision et la notifier aux parties intéressées; enfin leurs Excellences invitent la Sublime Porte, au nom de leurs Gouvernements, à accepter la ligne-frontière indiquée par le document sus-mentionné.

La Sublime Porte a voué la plus sérieuse attention à l'examen de cette importante communication: et plus elle est désireuse de témoigner de sa déférence pour les Grandes Puissances amies, avec lesquelles elle a signé le Traité de Berlin, plus elle éprouve le besoin à signaler à leur appréciation équitable la position aussi perplexe que pénible où elle se trouve placée par l'invitation qui vient de lui être adressée.

La Sublime Porte ne doute nullement que les Puissances dont elle connaît les sentiments de justice, et auxquels elle ne saurait jamais supposer l'intention de porter

[c] Nos. 85, 87, 90, and 100 in Turkey No. 41.

atteinte à sa souveraineté, n'accueillent avec bienveillance les observations que le Soussigné est chargé de présenter à leurs Excellences en réponse à leur note précitée.

En signant le Traité de Berlin la Sublime Porte ne s'attendait pas à propos d'un vœu concernant la rectification de la frontière Hellénique en Epire et en Thessalie à recevoir des Puissances Médiatrices une proposition ayant pour objet la cession de pays appartenant à l'Albanie, ainsi que de la Thessalie tout entière, c'est-à-dire la totalité de la Vallée de Pénée avec ces deux versants, cession qui consisterait à annexer au Royaume Hellénique un territoire presque égal à la moitié de la superficie actuelle du royaume.

Dans leur note précitée leurs Excellences affirment que les Puissances ont prescrit à leurs Plénipotentiaires réunis en Conférence à Berlin de fixer, en se conformant aux indications générales du Protocol No. 13, une ligne qui constituât entre la Grèce et la Turquie une bonne et solide frontière défensive.

Mais la Sublime Porte regrette de devoir faire observer que la ligne-frontière qu'elle est invitée à accepter ne présente guère ces conditions en ce qui la concerne. En effet, personne ne saurait attribuer à la Sublime Porte la pensée ou le désir de viser à une extension territoriale aux dépens d'un autre Etat, tandis que l'objet d'une bonne et solide ligne défensive serait de garantir plutôt la Sublime Porte contre la possibilité de pareilles aspirations à son préjudice. Or, les points stratégiques assignés à la Grèce par la Conférence tels que Metzovo, position d'une grande importance militaire pour les communications avec la Basse-Albanie, exposerait les provinces limitrophes à des attaques contre lesquelles la Sublime Porte se trouverait sans défense. D'autre part, même comme but défensif, la Sublime Porte ne saurait s'expliquer pourquoi la Conférence a adopté du côté de l'Epire, du thalweg du Calamas, tandis que du côté de Thessalie au lieu de suivre le thalweg du Pénée, elle fait remonter la ligne-frontière aux sommets du versant septentrional de la vallée.

La Sublime Porte se borne à ce peu d'observations en ce qui concerne le côté stratégique de la ligne-frontière proposée par la Conférence. Mais envisagée au point de vue politique, cette ligne présenterait dans son application de graves difficultés, et imposerait à la Sublime Porte des sacrifices auxquels il lui serait impossible de se soumettre.

En effet, comment lui serait-il possible de consentir à la cession de Janina que les Albanais, qui, eux aussi, se croient à l'exemple d'autres nationalités de l'Empire, une race distincte et non moins intéressante, ont de tout temps considéré comme la capitale de la Basse-Albanie, à la possession de laquelle ils tiennent, comme on le sait, avec tant d'obstination? N'est-il pas évident que si la Sublime Porte se décidait à sacrifier une ville si importante sous tous les rapports, elle provoquerait de graves complications qui compromettraient peut-être l'exercice paisible de son autorité dans cette partie de la Turquie d'Europe? Serait-il possible à la Sublime Porte de déposséder les Albanais de certaines autres localités appartenant à leur race et surtout du pays de Tchamouri, habité exclusivement par les Albanais, dont la majorité professe la religion Musulmane? Du côté de la Thessalie la Sublime Porte se trouverait en face de difficultés non moins graves. Il y a Larisse, ville populeuse et importante, habitée pour les trois quarts par les Musulmans et entourée d'une série de districts et de villages Musulmans. Serait-il possible que contrairement à la sollicitude manifestée par les Puissances Chrétiennes de l'Europe en faveur d'un royaume Chrétien, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le Khalife et de Chef de la religion Musulmane, allât jusqu'à sacrifier une grande ville essentiellement Musulmane et à mécontenter non-seulement les habitants qui implorent en ce moment la protection Impériale, mais tous les Musulmans en général? D'ailleurs, si Larisse était cédée à la Grèce, la population Musulmane en émigrerait, comme l'avait fait celle du Royaume Hellénique, où il ne reste actuellement qu'une dizaine de familles Musulmanes demeurant au Palais; et la décadence, la ruine d'une ville aujourd'hui populeuse et prospère ne tarderait pas à être complète.

Ce qui démontre que le côté politique d'une rectification des frontières entre la Grèce et la Turquie mérite une considération spéciale, c'est que M. Waddington, lui-même, Premier Plénipotentiaire de France, qui avait pris l'initiative de cette proposition au sein du Congrès n'a pas hésité, lorsque plus tard en sa qualité de Président du Conseil et de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères il a proposé à l'acceptation des autres Puissances une ligne-frontière à exclure du territoire à céder à la Grèce la ville de Janina et le pays de Tchamouri, et que s'il avait opiné pour cette exclusion c'était sans doute en considération des complications que produirait la résistance bien connue des Albanais. La Sublime Porte est fondée à croire que les autres Puissances ne peuvent que partager sur ce point les vues de M. Waddington, et qu'aucune d'elles ne doit désirer l'annexion forcée au Royaume Hellénique d'une population Musulmane contre sa volonté, et alors qu'elle serait assez nombreuse pour qu'une telle annexion devînt une source de dangers et de troubles.

En soumettant à leurs Excellences, et à M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, les considérations qui précèdent, le Soussigné est autorisé à leur déclarer que la Sublime Porte, par déférence pour les Puissances amies, n'en est pas moins disposée à faire malgré tout au Royaume Hellénique quelques concessions, et à s'entendre avec elles en vue de hâter le réglement satisfaisante et définitif de cette question. Mais d'un autre côté, comptant avec confiance sur les sentiments de justice des Puissances, qui n'ont jamais méconnu ses droits de souveraineté, elle s'attend qu'elles ne méconnaîtront pas non plus son droit incontestable de participer à la fixation de la ligne-frontière définitive de la Grèce au même titre qu'elle a participé à la détermination de celles de la Serbie et du Monténégro, et qu'elle voudront bien apprécier les raisons qui la mettent dans la nécessité d'insister sur la conservation de Janina, de Larissa, de Metzovo, et de certains localités habitées par une nombreuse population Musulmane.

Enfin, le Soussigné est chargé par son Gouvernement d'exprimer à leurs Excellences, et à M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, l'espoir que les observations contenues dans la présente note seront prises par leurs Gouvernements en bienveillante considération, et de prier par l'entremise de leurs Excellences, et de M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, les Puissances Médiatrices, de vouloir bien autoriser leurs Représentants à Constantinople à s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte en vue de faciliter les négociations tant sur la fixation définitive de la ligne-frontière que sur les points secondaires et les détails qui se rattachent à cette question.

Le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 432.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 31, 1880.*

I HAVE asked Baron Haymerle what he thought of the answer of the Turkish Government to the note in which the decision of the Berlin Congress on the Greek frontier question had been communicated to them, but his Excellency declined to express any opinion at all upon it, as he preferred waiting to know that of the British and French Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 433.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 31, 1880.*

I HAVE informed Baron Haymerle that Her Majesty's Government would be glad if he could communicate to them any information that they receive from Janina, and his Excellency said that he would gladly do so, but that up to the present time he had received no Report since the departure of the late Consul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 41.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 434.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 31, 1880.*

WHEN I mentioned to Baron Haymerle the opinion expressed by Lord E. Fitzmaurice in his telegram to your Lordship of the 28th instant, that the condition of things in Albania* and Thrace was so bad that no delay should be allowed to take place in applying the new law to them, his Excellency seemed greatly to doubt whether it would be possible to introduce a new system of administration into those districts in their present state.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* It should have been Macedonia.—P. C.

No. 42.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 435.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 31, 1880.*

MR. LASCELLES mentioned to your Lordship that M. Zancoff contends that Bulgaria, having been endowed with a Christian Government, should not be considered as forming part of the Ottoman Empire.

The disposition of the Bulgarian Government to act upon this assumption is looked upon by Baron Haymerle as a very impudent attempt to disregard the arrangements of the Treaty of Berlin, and will certainly not be countenanced by him. The establishment of a Christian Government had, he said, nothing to do with the question, and the vassal Christian Principalities were acknowledged parts of the Turkish Empire till their independence was established.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 43.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 436. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 29th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Baron Haymerle gave me yesterday precisely the same reasons as had been given to your Lordship by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, for the modifications that he wished to introduce into the self-denying Protocol as proposed by your Lordship.

He said that he wished to follow as closely as possible the precedents which you had cited, and also that it appeared in every respect desirable that the agreement to be come to should be strictly defined as being only applicable to what might arise out of the measures which were the cause of its being made.

Your Lordship will find in this language further evidence of the extreme caution that the Austro-Hungarian Government are resolved to observe in these negotiations, and of their dread of being dragged further than they mean to go, and perhaps also of a determination to keep themselves free from all embarrassing engagements if events should develop into an unsettlement of the position of Turkey as established by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have frequently expressed the conviction that the Imperial Government entertain no design of extension towards Salonica, and to this opinion I continue firmly to adhere.

I am, however, very far from saying that circumstances might not arise which would induce them to consider whether their own interests or, as they would put it, their necessities of defence, did not require them to push on towards the Ægean.

An extension of Bulgaria towards the south-west would, to say the least, not be looked upon with indifference, and the question whether it should not be met by an Austrian advance to Salonica would probably arise out of it.

I am, of course, unable to say whether it is under the influence of any such speculations that Baron Haymerle is so anxious strictly to define the extent of the self-denying Protocol, but I submit them to your Lordship as a possible explanation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 44.

M. Contostavlos to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 3.)

Mon cher Lord, *Ce Lundi, le 2 Août, 1880.*

J'AI été longtemps à vous attendre aujourd'hui à votre bureau. Comme je ne suis pas sûr de vous y retrouver aujourd'hui, je m'empresse de vous expliquer par la présente le motif de ma visite qui était de vous faire part, que sur mes instances auprès de M. Tricoupi, à l'effet d'ajourner l'appel des réserves et la convocation de la Chambre jusqu'à la prise en considération par les Grandes Puissances de la réponse de la Porte, j'ai

reçu Samedi le télégramme suivant, que je vous communique avec plaisir, car j'avais à cœur de voir mon Gouvernement se conformer en tout aux conseils et aux avis de son Excellence Lord Granville. Comme je reçus en même temps l'ordre de faire une autre communication à son Excellence, je viens d'adresser aujourd'hui à son Secrétaire Privé la prière de lui demander une audience pour moi, lorsque j'aurai aussi l'honneur de lui soumettre le télégramme mentionné, dont voici le texte :—

"Par déférence pour opinion Lord Granville, publication Ordonnances Convocation Chambre mobilisation subira pour le moment nouveau ajournement. Veuillez toutefois faire ressortir aux yeux Gouvernement Anglais conséquences graves de ce temps d'arrêt et vous employer à obtenir qu'il soit aussi court que possible."

Le fond de la pensée de M. Tricoupi est sans contredit que le Gouvernement Grec se trouvera dans la nécessité absolue de procéder même de lui-même à l'occupation des provinces concédées, pour empêcher des mouvements irréguliers et éviter le danger de se voir débordé.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

No. 45.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, August 3.

IT seems that apprehensions exist in Paris lest our reduction of the disinterestedness Protocol may give rise to false interpretations on the part of Russia. We think that it would be easy to prevent those apprehensions if, in conformity with the pattern of the Egypt Protocol of the 17th September, 1840, the disinterestedness of the Powers would be declared in the preamble of introduction.

The Protocol might be conceived in the following terms :—

"Les Puissances, pour constater de nouveau le complet désintéressement avec lequel elles poursuivent l'exécution de toutes les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, s'engagent à ne rechercher en conséquence de leur action concertée pour l'exécution du dit Traité relativement à la question Monténégrine et éventuellement à la question Hellénique aucun, &c."

Baron Haymerle wishes me to inform Lord Granville of this proposition. For the rest we must insist, from the reasons given on the 28th July, upon our insertion, as upon a correct wording of the Protocol.

Belgrave Square, August 3, 1880.

No. 46.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3, 4 P.M.)

Erzeroum, August 1, 1880, 3 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

CAMP Medjingert. I have come with the Russian Commissioner to conclusion respecting Khotour frontier which I hope will be satisfactory.

Protocols and also two [rolled] maps were forwarded to your Lordship on the 28th instant by way of Tiflis, and others to Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

As to demarcation of Armenian frontier, a much better understanding exists with my colleague, and I trust the business will be finished in reasonable time.

No. 47.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3, 8 A.M.)

(No. 36.)
Buyukdéré, August 2, 1880, 2·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MEETING of Commission to-day a failure owing to absence of Italian Commissioner. Adjourned to Wednesday.

No. 48.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 37.)
Buyukdéré, August 2, 1880, 10·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Commissioner has instructions to support plan put forward by M. Lippich, and will bring forward a plan of division [group wrong]ing and maintaining the rights of the mountain tribes of Seutari as suggested by him. As regards the rest of Albania he has no special instructions and expects none. I shall be glad to have my instructions, if possible, this week, as my colleagues will, I think, all have theirs by then.

No. 49.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 80.)
Philibé, August 2, 1880, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM privately informed that a contract has been [group wrong; ? made] by the Roumelian Government for twenty-five Russian sergeants and one Russian sergeant-major. I am [? promised] the contract in a few days. I am also informed that five Russian officers of superior rank arrived last week ostensibly with a view to visit the monuments at Schipka.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 50.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 159.)
Constantinople, August 2, 1880, 4·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I PROPOSE to send Captain Swaine to Salonica and Volo with the "Falcon" when she starts. It would be useful to have more accurate information on the military situation there than we have now.

No. 51.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 119.)
St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1880, 11·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to General Hamley's telegram repeated in your No. 426, the Russian Government has given orders to its Commissioner to proceed with the Asiatic delimitation in accordance with General Hamley's suggestion postponing to a future time the erection of the boundary pillars.

No. 52.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 351.)
Foreign Office, August 3, 1880, 4·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TELL M. de Freycinet that, as Her Majesty's Government drafted the collective note respecting Montenegro and the self-denying Protocol, they would be glad if the French Government would draft the collective rejoinder to the Porte's reply respecting the Greek frontier, as this is a question upon which they consider that the initiative should remain with France.

No. 53.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 346.)
Foreign Office, August 3, 1880, 4 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Macdonell's telegram No. 93, you had better get the collective note proceeded with as speedily as you can.

No. 54.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 351.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 159.

I approve your sending Captain Swaine to Salonica and Volo.

No. 55.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 361.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880, 5·35 P.M.

REPETITION of telegram No. 351 of the 3rd August to Mr. Adams:—

[See No. 52.]

Inform Government to which you are accredited of this suggestion, and express hope that it will meet with their concurrence.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 452.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 119.

Thank Russian Government for adopting Hamley's suggestion.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 26.

Her Majesty's Government will not press the Greek Government any further to abstain from issuing the Proclamation if they think it necessary to do so.

No. 58.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 3, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 3, 1880, 2 P.M.

NO foundation for report respecting mobilization of Servian army; but I have reason to believe that overtures have been made to Servia by Russia for offensive and defensive alliance with Bulgaria, though so far without success.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 488.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 404 on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to Baron Haymerle, as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 410), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 451), and Sir A. Paget (No. 404).

No. 60.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 369.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I HAVE requested your Excellency by telegraph to thank the Russian Government, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, for having instructed their Commissioner at Karaourgan to proceed with the delimitation of the Asiatic boundary as suggested by Sir B. Hamley, without waiting to erect boundary marks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 381. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and inquired whether it was true that the difficulties made by the Austrian Government about ten days ago in regard to the combined naval demonstration off Dulcigno were due to the desire of Austria to act alone as the "mandataire" of Europe; that I had replied objecting to such a method of procedure, and stating that Her Majesty's Government must adhere to the principle of concerted action, and that the Austrian Government had thereupon dropped their opposition.

I replied that there was no foundation for any report of the kind, that the facts, as regards the Austrian grounds of objection were indeed the reverse of what he had stated.

Prince Lobanow then spoke of the proposal that in the event of the Porte accepting the Dulcigno arrangement, the Ambassadors at Constantinople should require assurances and guarantees as to the manner of its execution. I said I thought such a mode of procedure would be desirable. His Excellency remarked that his experience led him to believe that in these countries the principal thing was that one force should not retire from the positions to be ceded until the other was on the spot to replace it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 334.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I HAVE repeated to your Excellency a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, stating that Count Corti believed the Porte to be prepared immediately to accept the proposal for the cession of the Dulcigno district to Montenegro, and I have accordingly urged you by telegraph to proceed as soon as possible with the presentation of the collective note which recommends this cession as the best solution of the difficulty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 63.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 335.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I APPROVE your Excellency's proposal to send Captain Swaine in the "Falcon" to visit Salonica and Volo, and have telegraphed to you this day to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 64.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 353.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I LEARNT from your Excellency's telegrams Nos. 151 and 154 of the 30th ultimo that there appeared to be a prospect of the Porte undertaking to carry out the proposed cession of the Dulcigno territory to Montenegro, and you pointed out the expediency of coming to some arrangement with the Turkish Government which would prevent the recurrence of the difficulty in regard to the transfer, which arose when the execution of the April Convention was attempted.

I have accordingly authorized your Excellency by telegraph, if the occasion arises, to come to an agreement with your colleagues as to stipulating the precise conditions under which the transfer of the ceded territories should be effected, and I have at the same time pointed out the necessity of making it quite clear that the Turkish civil authorities and military force should not retire from the positions which are to be given up until those of the Montenegrins are on the spot to replace them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1044.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government think that, as they drafted the collective note to the Porte respecting the Montenegrin frontier, and the self-denying Protocol, it would be well if the French Government would undertake to draft the collective rejoinder to the Porte's reply on the Greek frontier question.

They consider, moreover, that the initiative in this question should remain with the French Government.

I authorized you to-day, by telegraph, to make a communication in this sense to M. de Freycinet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 66.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.**

(No. 414.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, instructing him to propose to M. de Freycinet that the French Government should draft the collective rejoinder of the Powers to the Porte's reply on the Greek frontier question.†

You are authorized to inform the Government to which you are accredited of the views of Her Majesty's Government on this point, and, in doing so, you will express a hope that the suggestion made by them will meet with the concurrence of the Italian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1880.

I HAVE received a telegram from you, dated the 31st ultimo, stating that the Greek Government will not publish the Proclamation mobilizing the army until France and

* Also to Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and the Earl of Dufferin. † No. 65.

England approve the step, but that they consider it necessary, in order to be prepared in case of resistance being offered to the award of the Conference, and to retain the old soldiers whose time of service is about to expire. You add that they would be satisfied with a negative approval, but would not act contrary to direct advice. I have this day informed you in reply, by telegraph, that Her Majesty's Government would not press the Greek Government any further to abstain from issuing the Proclamation if they thought it necessary to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 224. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 21, 1880.

AS far as I have been able to ascertain as yet there appears to be no other reason for the return of Prenk Bib Doda to Scutari than the failure of the Albanian Committee to supply his contingent of Mirdites with breechloading rifles.

The Christians of Scutari had, with difficulty, raised by subscription a sufficient sum to purchase about 150 rifles for these Mirdites, but the displeasure with which this step was viewed by the Mahommedans made them perceive how much the Christians, and especially the Mirdites, are mistrusted.

Probably Prenk Bib Doda, being aware that active operations against the Montenegrins had been decided upon by those who secretly direct the actions of the Scutari Committee, has thought that, by withdrawing his men from the front at the critical moment, he might obtain the much-coveted rifles as an inducement to return. He has, in the meanwhile, allowed his men to go back to their houses in Mirdicia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 226. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 24, 1880.

MUSTAFA PASHA, of Avlona, and Seyd Abdullatif, an Alim of Janina, the Commissioners sent from Constantinople with the asserted mission of endeavouring to induce their North Albanian fellow-countrymen to submit quietly to the cessions of territory made to Montenegro through the April Convention, arrived here the day before yesterday.

Izzet Pasha having informed the natives for many days before that these Commissioners would be merely empowered to offer advice, the Scutari Committee decided that they should be allowed to come and be listened to without any hostile demonstration.

To-day Mustafa Pasha requested the whole Committee to call upon him, having already had many hours of private conversation with the Mahommedan members of it, and expounded to it the desire of the Porte to terminate its differences with Montenegro through the fulfilment of the April arrangement. The Mahommedan members remained perfectly silent, and allowed the Christians present to oppose the arguments of Mustafa Pasha, and to declare that the North Albanians will never permit the surrender of the slightest portion of their territory.

The Commissioner made a semblance of being disappointed, and requested that no definitive decision should be adopted until time had been taken for due consideration of all he had said.

The whole of these proceedings is viewed here as a hollow pretence, intended to serve the purposes of the Porte in its negotiations with the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 70.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 229. Political.)

Scutari, July 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a telegram received by me this day from Voïvoda Radonich, and giving me an account of the manner in which the destruction of the villages of Gosic and Matagus, in the Plain of Podgoritza, was brought about on the night of the 22nd-23rd instant.

Although I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of the expressions of regret of the Montenegrin Government at the occurrence, still, as the Albanians probably suffered considerable loss, the lesson given to them, it is possibly hoped by the Montenegrin Government, will not be felt less severely under the explanations now offered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 70.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.)

Cettinjé, le 4/16 Juillet, 1880.

CETTE nuit un certain nombre d'hommes appartenant au bataillon dont l'avant-poste a été massacré le 12 de ce mois, ont attaqué secrètement les villages Gossic et Matagonch, occupés par des bandes Albanaises. Ces villages ont été brûlés par nos gens, qui ont eu un mort et cinq blessés. Nous nous empressons de porter à votre connaissance ce fait qui a eu lieu malgré les ordres sévères du Gouvernement et du Commandant des troupes à Podgoritza de garder la défensive, et d'éviter toutes les occasions pouvant donner lieu à des conflits inutiles avec les bandes qui sont devant nous. C'est le résultat de l'excitation morale de nos soldats, obligés depuis plusieurs mois de rester impassibles devant les insultes d'un ennemi aussi arrogant que fanfaron—excitation qui est d'autant plus compréhensible après le massacre de notre poste près de Goluborci.

Nous déplorons ce fait. Le Commandant des troupes à Podgoritza a eu l'ordre de rétablir la discipline en punissant les délinquants; mais nous vous prions, en même temps, de prendre en considération que, malgré toute la bonne volonté du Gouvernement Monténégrin d'épuiser les moyens pacifiques de terminer notre querelle avec la Turquie sans effusion de sang, et malgré la discipline de notre armée, nous ne pouvons pas toujours répondre de la situation en vue de l'exaspération de nos soldats, qu'on a fait trop souffrir, et qui ne sont pas habitués à être impunément provoqués.

No. 71.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 186.)

Therapia, July 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I had a communication with my Russian colleague this afternoon, during the course of which he invited my special attention to the present attitude of the Porte on the Roumelian and Bulgarian question. I was glad of the opportunity of learning his Excellency's views. He told me that he had been thinking over the strange fact of two notes having been sent by the Porte to the Ambassadors relating to the events at Bellova in Bulgaria, which had taken place at least three months ago. What could be the intention of the Porte? Why were they bringing up this question just at the moment when the Montenegrin and Greek questions would naturally absorb all their attention? He felt compelled to consider their action in connection with what he read in the Turkish local press, and also in English and Austrian newspapers. There must be some political plan underlying the action of the Porte. There was an apparent intention on its part to make a case for entering Roumelia and occupying the Balkans. The Greek press was also very active, and there seemed an inclination to produce a collision between the Turks and the Bulgarians. He had also especially noted a significant article in the "Times," speaking of the assertion of the sovereign rights of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia, and rather foreshadowing difficulties among the Bulgarians. His Excellency was evidently uneasy, as if he foresaw a campaign

in favour of reasserting the rights of the Turks over the Bulgarians. He suggested some ingenious motives. The Greeks might be anxious to occupy the Turks in Bulgaria so as to lessen the forces the Turks might bring against them, and might thus think it to be their interest to urge on the Turks to raise troublesome questions elsewhere. Or, again, the Turks might be anxious to raise the Bulgarian question as a last chance of dividing the Powers. But whatever the policy at work might be, he called my special attention to the fact that the Turks themselves seemed suddenly disposed to move in the matter, after having remained quiescent very long.

I am bound to say that I have also been seeking for the clue to the action of the Turks. I suggested to your Lordship recently that the despatch of the notes relating to outrages on the borders of Roumelia and Bulgaria might be simply a counter-demonstration to notes sent by Ambassadors to the Porte complaining of similar disorders in Macedonia and Asia. There may, however, be deeper reasons, amongst them a desire to bring in a prominent way before Europe what is the fate of Mussulmans handed over to the rule of Christian majorities. The Porte may have wished to emphasize what may happen in districts ceded to Greece.

I do not feel competent to determine on which of these grounds the Porte has actually proceeded, but I am endeavouring to obtain further information. The answer which should be returned to the note must depend very much on what may be accepted as the most probable policy on which the Porte is proceeding. I shall accordingly act with the greatest caution.

For the moment I have simply acknowledged the receipt of the notes, asking for the dates of the occurrences, and stating my belief that they had happened some time ago, coupled with an expression of surprise that they should now be taken up by the Porte without any reference to the inquiries proceeding, or explanation of why the present moment was chosen for remonstrances. I have added that I had sent a copy of the note to Mr. Lascelles, and that Mr. Lascelles had communicated with the Bulgarian authorities on the subject long ago. With regard to the general allegation put forward, and the redress or remedies demanded, I reply that I have referred to your Lordship for instructions.

I inclose a copy of my letter. I should be inclined to defer the further answer till I am able to throw light on the policy of Turkey in raising the question at this particular moment in a somewhat unusual fashion.

When M. Novikoff had stated his views and thoughts concerning the action of Turkey, I told him that I was equally puzzled to know what was the truth about unionist preparations in Bulgaria and Roumelia, that I was receiving information which alleged the existence of considerable movement and excitement, that arms were being supplied by Russia, that Russian soldiers were arriving in Bulgaria, and so forth. M. Novikoff assured me in reply that his information was of a totally contrary kind. In most explicit terms, and with much earnestness of manner, he assured me that he knew nothing whatever of agitation for union between the two provinces at present. Two months ago the case was different; when Lord Beaconsfield's Government was succeeded by the present Administration there was great excitement among the Bulgarians, as they felt convinced that the time had come when they would be permitted to unite the two provinces, but they had been quite undeceived; and speaking not only as a diplomatist but as a man, he declared distinctly that any statement that Russia was encouraging political agitation in the provinces was false. Of course, it was known what the view and wish of Russia had been, but they were determined to keep within the Treaty of Berlin.

Nothing could have been more emphatic or more explicit than the language of M. Novikoff, both in denying that he had information of an active agitation or plotting for the union of the Principality and the province at present, and in declaring that Russia was herself abstaining from any encouragement.

On the other hand, your Lordship is aware of the information received by Mr. Stephen and Mr. Lascelles, and Colonel Wilson has written privately in the same sense. The evidence seems certainly sufficient to justify some uneasiness.

My conversation with M. Novikoff next turned on the substance of the notes, and I was able to state to him what I consider the situation as to the inquiries at Kirdjali and Aïdos to be. His Excellency was not in possession of the detailed information which had been supplied to me.

I explained to him that an examination of the case had shown me that the Aïdos Commission had refrained entirely from examining into or at least reporting on events within the boundaries of Bulgaria. Nominated by the Eastern Roumelian Government they would have had no power to do so. The villages burnt were situated partly in the province, partly in the Principality. The Report of the Commission would not touch the

Bellova case, for Bellova was Bulgarian. At the same time, I informed his Excellency that I had learnt from a member of the Commission that what he had heard incidentally about the proceedings at Bellova while engaged in the inquiry had been very bad indeed.

I also informed him that Mr. Lascelles had been in communication with the Bulgarian authorities as to the case many weeks ago, that a copy of General Ehrnrooth's Report had been promised him as far back as June, but had not been given him yet, and that as far as I could judge at present, no great energy had been shown by the Bulgarian authorities in dealing with the case.

I then pointed out that it appeared that the authorities of Bulgaria and Roumelia alike appeared to be too weak, and too much afraid of incurring unpopularity by doing their duty in the severe repression of disorders, or in maintenance of discipline, and I told his Excellency that I had received information about the result of the trial of the officers implicated in the Kirdjali business, which alarmed me as to justice being done. M. Novikoff here interposed, and said I was coming on very delicate ground, as some of those officers were Russians, and Russia was not Bulgaria. Russia would know how to deal with its own subjects. Besides, he knew that the Russian officers had been struck off the lists of the army and dismissed. I told him my information did not tally entirely with his. A Russian officer implicated had, I believed, not been dismissed, but thought of resigning. I was alluding to Captain Yacheroff, who had been in command at Kirdjali, of whom Mr. Stephen had just written to me, that up to the present time he had been allowed to retain his Commission, that efforts were being made by the military authorities to persuade him to resign, but that it was said that he refused to tender his resignation unless a pecuniary indemnity was paid to him.

I promised M. Novikoff that I would supply him privately with a statement of the facts as regards these officers as supplied to me. But I felt, to use M. Novikoff's words, that I was on delicate ground, and I did not know how far, in the absence of instructions, I should be right in pushing remonstrances with regard to the punishment of foreign officers by the Eastern Roumelian authorities. The case is of some importance, as I learn that at Bellova a Russian officer was also very seriously implicated.

M. Novikoff explained to me that I must know, from what had passed at St. Petersburgh and here relative to my proposals for inquiry by Colonel Wilson, that there were two subjects on which the Russian Government felt very strongly, namely, any proceedings which might implicate Russian officers, and any action which might seem to lead up to the occupation of the Balkans.

On the other hand, I reported what had been the policy of Her Majesty's Representative on these occasions in reference to the position of minorities. I called his Excellency's attention again to the fact that, unasked by the Porte, Mr. Lascelles had taken action at Sophia when he learnt what had happened at Bellova. With regard to the demands made by the Porte in the note as to action to be taken by the Powers I should, of course, not reply without instructions from home.

The position seems to me very delicate. The Porte can of course maintain with some justice that the Russian Government will neither permit Turkey to occupy the Balkans, nor take any action itself if excesses are committed on Mussulmans resident in Bulgaria and Roumelia. It is clearly desirable that the utmost pressure should be put on the Government of Bulgaria as on that of Roumelia to deal severely where crimes against Mussulman villages are established, but the Tribunals before which these crimes are tried are not impartial, and the persons implicated are in many cases foreigners.

It appears clear from the evidence which has been collected that there was a certain movement on the border land between Bulgaria and Roumelia among the Mussulmans, but the wholesale burning of villages, accompanied by various outrages in Bulgaria as well as Roumelia, seems to point either to a reckless neglect of discipline and an incapacity for keeping the forces in order which are summoned to enforce the submission of villages of which the loyalty is doubtful, or to a still worse feature, namely, to a readiness to strike such terror into Mussulmans by the vigour of reprisals and punishment as to lead to their abandonment of their houses.

The evidence taken by the Kirdjali Commission points mainly to the former alternative. In the Aïdos case I fear the evidence is in the direction, that besides reckless neglect to enforce discipline the motive of terrorism was not absent.

It would be of essential service to me if I could be furnished with the general views of Her Majesty's Government as to the attitude which I should take up in reference to the state of things in Roumelia and Bulgaria to which I have alluded, and which have been more fully described in the despatches of Mr. Lascelles and Mr. Stephen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, July* 28, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the *notes verbales*, dated the 15th and 21st instant, relating to occurrences alleged to have taken place in Bulgaria. I have communicated the contents of these notes to Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and asked for instructions on the subject.

In the meantime, I beg to call your attention to the fact that no dates are given in the notes of the Porte in connection with any of the events in question.

So far as I can judge, those relating to the village of Bellova occurred at least three months ago, and I feel somewhat surprised that allusion should be made to them without any explanation as to why the present moment is chosen for remonstrance, and without any reference to inquiries which have been proceeding in regard to the matter. Nor does the Sublime Porte state whether it has inquired of the Bulgarian Government what steps have been taken in the matter.

The British Agent and Consul-General, Mr. Lascelles, communicated with the Bulgarian authorities on the burning of villages and on the events at Bellova long ago, and I should be glad if your Excellency could inform me of any similar communications which may have passed between the Porte and the Government of the Principality, and what has been their result.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 72.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward a despatch on military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 30. Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, July* 30, 1880.

AT the end of April last, at a moment when the Turkish authorities were reducing their army to a mere cadre force, in order more easily to carry out the new organization, its whole strength was under 100,000 men.

Amongst this number there still remained 16 battalions of Redifs in Thessaly and some 14 or 15 in the Kossovo district.

In order to allow these and some time-expired men to be sent to their homes, a Decree was issued calling for recruits. The actual number, I believe, was not fixed at the time. When, however, a month later, the Greek and Montenegro questions were again more energetically considered, it was decided not to disband the Redifs in Thessaly. Those in the Kossovo district, however, were sent home.

From that date recruiting never stopped. The army has been considerably augmented, as the following figures will show (I am taking only the infantry in the European provinces into account):—

Constantinople	..	10	battalions, about	8,000 men.
Adrianople vilayet	..	27	"	13,000 "
Salonica "	..	11	"	6,600 "
Kossovo district	..	16	"	8,800 "
Scutari "	..	7	"	4,000 "
Epirus, Thessaly } Greek frontier	..	48	"	31,300 "
Total ..	..	125	"	71,700 "

These 125 battalions are thus made up: Each Army Corps has 32 battalions of infantry (the rifle battalions are not yet formed); for the three corps in Europe, therefore,

it gives 96 battalions; battalions of the 5th corps, 13; Redif battalions, 16; giving the above total of 125 battalions.

The number of recruits that have joined these corps is differently given, ranging from 35,000 to 45,000.

Since the middle of the present month, when the decision of the Greek frontier line, proposed by the Berlin Conference, was officially presented to the Porte, further military preparations are being adopted.

An Iradé has been issued bearing date the 22nd July, calling out more recruits in order to raise the 125 battalions to a strength of 800 each.

When these have joined, Turkey will have under arms in Europe 100,000 infantry. Her cavalry and artillery cannot be much augmented on account of the paucity of horses and mules. But I may mention that there are some 200 guns on the Greek frontier chiefly in mountain batteries. Cavalry is scarce.

It must be remembered that as long as Turkey has the men no law exists which exempts any of them from service under any pretext, if required, and there is no such moral force as "public opinion" that regulates and reduces this to a minimum.

As the cadres of the first reserve are complete in officers and non-commissioned officers, Turkey's first reserve in Europe consists of 96 battalions. These, however, would not average more than 500 men each, making about 48,000; and although the cadres of the second reserve, or second ban of Redifs, are only partly formed, I still venture to think that another 20,000 men could easily be found for this force.

These latter 20,000 men could be drafted into the first reserve if thought preferable. I only wish to give the approximate number of men available in Europe for each class of reserve according as they have served under 10 years for the first and under 14 for the second Redifs. In addition to these, there would be the men of upwards of forty years of age.

Turkey can therefore place, if pressed, about 170,000 infantry in the field, not counting a single Albanian from the hills, and I venture to hope that I may not be considered presumptuous in saying that in her present frame of mind she is determined to resist by force of arms if Europe assists Greece materially to take possession of the new territory given her by the late Conference of Berlin.

Every act of hers tends to confirm that opinion. She is now engaged in preparing her ambulance train, and is inviting foreign and other medical officers to join her ranks.

A rumour has also reached me that Ghazi Osman Pasha, the late Minister of War, will be given the command on the Greek frontier.

Although the European military world has many faults to find with the "Hero of Plevna," I venture to assure your Excellency that his name alone will make the soldiers flock to his army. Although he may have many enemies among the Pashas in the capital the peasantry revere his name, and would come from far and wide to join such a man in such a cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

No. 73.

Memorandum by M. Contoslavlos.—(Received August 4.)

PAR déférence pour opinion exprimée par Lord Granville, publication Ordonnance convocation Chambre et mobilisation subira pour le moment nouveau ajournement.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 4, 1880.*

WITH reference to Lord E. Fitzmaurice's telegrams about Albania, Baron Haymerle does not consider that the attributions of the Commission extend to the fixing of the limits of the vilayets.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 4, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE does not consider that the assurance of the Porte of its intention to carry out Dulcigno arrangement should cause the abandonment of the projected demonstration, which should take place if Montenegro is not put into possession of the new territory within three weeks.

The Turkish Government must, he says, take care that this time the territory is properly handed over to Montenegro, and the Prince, on his side, must be ready to take possession and not try to throw too much on the Powers.

No. 76.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4, 12·46 P.M.)

(No. 160.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 4, 1880, 11·30 A.M.*

THE collective note respecting Montenegro was presented to the Porte yesterday.

No. 77.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4, 1·50 P.M.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 4, 1880, 11·45 A.M.*

THIS morning I have read to M. de Freycinet your telegram No. 351.

His Excellency said that his first impression was certainly against the French Government drafting the collective rejoinder, and he would not admit of any initiative remaining with France after the Berlin Conference. He considers that Her Majesty's Government should continue to take the lead in these matters.

In a long conversation, which I report by post, I combated his arguments to the best of my ability, and he promised to take the matter into serious consideration, and let me know the result. He was [? to see] the President of the Republic, and would give him an account of our conversation, and ask his opinion.

It is evident that M. de Freycinet is entirely averse from making one step, however small, in advance, and he seems determined to confine himself to following in the wake of the other Powers in any common diplomatic action.

No. 78.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 4, 1880, 9 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this morning, I have received a note this evening from M. de Freycinet stating that M. Grévy entirely shares his ideas, and begging me to transmit to your Lordship the considerations which he mentioned to me this morning, at the same time reiterating the desire of the French Government to act in perfect concert with you on these questions.

No. 79.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 4, 1880, 4 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 404.

Italian Government do not consider the Porte's reply satisfactory; but they would prefer to reserve their opinion until the views of the other Governments have been made known to them.

Desirous of maintaining the general concert, they are willing that France be entrusted with the drafting of the collective rejoinder.

No. 80.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 337.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language which your Excellency held to the Russian Ambassador, as reported in your despatch No. 131, Confidential, of the 12th ultimo, in complying with M. Novikoff's request for your support to his application to the Porte for the punishment of Colonel Commaroff's assassin, who has hitherto escaped the penalty of his crime.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 81.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 339.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the note in which your Excellency called the attention of the Porte to the alleged support which the Albanian movement has received from the authorities at Scutari, and of which you forwarded me a copy in your despatch No. 163 of the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 340.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the representations your Excellency has made to the Turkish Ministers and the steps you have taken to obtain further evidence with regard to the conduct of Mehemet Ali, of Sivas, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 139 of the 12th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 342.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government are much impressed by a Report from Major Trotter, No. 17, Confidential, of the 1st June, depicting the deplorable condition of the Vilayet of Diarbekir.

Your Excellency's attention will no doubt have been drawn to this Report, of which a copy was inclosed in his despatch No. 28 to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 343.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received the Circular from Abédine Pasha to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 162 of the 20th ultimo, which proposes a disarmament of the population of Bulgaria as a means of preventing the alleged cruelties to Mussulmans on the south-eastern frontier of the Principality.

I concur in the view which your Excellency takes of this document, and I shall await a further despatch from you on the subject, as soon as you have received the Reports which you are expecting from Mr. Lascelles, Mr. Stephen, and Colonel Wilson, and have agreed with your colleagues as to the best mode of dealing with it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 377.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction your Excellency's announcement, as reported in your despatch No. 301 of the 22nd ultimo, of the ready agreement of the Russian Government to the three proposals which you were requested to lay before them relating to the action of the Powers in the Greek and Montenegrin questions and the signature of the Protocol at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 86.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 378.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE read the Report by Lieutenant-Colonel Villiers of his tour of inspection of the Black Sea ports, which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 292 of the 15th ultimo, and I have to request your Excellency to offer to Colonel Villiers my best thanks for this interesting paper, which appears to have been drawn up with great care and industry.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will take an opportunity of expressing to the Russian Government the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for the attention shown by the military authorities to Colonel Villiers at some of the places which he visited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 87.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1045.)
Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 670 of the 30th ultimo, reporting that M. de Freycinet had communicated to you the telegrams which had passed between himself and the Count de Montebello on the subject of my conversation with the latter respecting the proposed collective note to the Porte in regard to the Montenegrin question.

In consequence of these later communications, M. de Freycinet, as it appears, has assured you that he is now satisfied that in fact there is no difference between the two Governments in regard to this question and the nature and extent of the proposed demonstration; and I have accordingly to request that you will express to M. de Freycinet the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at this point having been cleared up.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 88.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 95.) *Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople a copy of a despatch addressed to you by Mr. Dalziel on the 3rd ultimo, reporting that the destruction of the fortifications of Rustchuk has not been carried into effect, and that new doors have recently been constructed in them with a view of using a portion of them as a magazine for dynamite.

I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Bulgarian Government to this infraction of the XIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 89.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 119.) *Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.*

Sir,

M. CONTOSTAVLOS read to me to-day a telegram from M. Tricoupi stating that, out of deference to the opinion expressed by me, the publication of the law convoking the Chamber and the mobilization of the army would not, for the moment, be further proceeded with.

I told M. Contostavlos the substance of your message of the 31st ultimo, and that I had replied that Her Majesty's Government would not press the Greek Government any further to abstain from issuing the Proclamation if they thought it necessary to do so.

No. 90.

Earl Granville to M. de Hengelmüller.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, August 4, 1880.*

IN reply to your note of the 20th ultimo, inclosing a draft note which your Government propose should be exchanged between the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin for the purpose of sanctioning certain Acts elaborated by the Delimitation Commissions under that Treaty, and including the Act of the 17th December, 1878, defining the Roumanian-Bulgarian (Dobroudja) frontier, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government concur in this proposal, and will address a note in the terms of the draft inclosed in your above-mentioned letter to the Signatory Powers of the Berlin Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 91.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 684.) *Paris, August 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 351 of 4·45 P.M. yesterday reached me in the evening. I called upon M. de Freycinet early this morning, and, in accordance with the instruction which the telegram contained, I informed his Excellency that, Her Majesty's Government having drawn up the draft of the collective note to the Porte on the Montenegrin question, and the so-called self-denying Protocol, they would be glad if the French Government would draw up a draft of a collective rejoinder to be made by the Powers to the Porte's reply respecting the Greek frontier question, alleging as a reason that this latter question was one upon which Her Majesty's Government consider that the initiative should remain with France.

M. de Freycinet remarked that his first impression certainly was that the French Government could not agree to this request. He went back to the Circular which your

Lordship, after the accession to office of Her Majesty's present Ministry, addressed to the British Representatives at the Courts of the other Great Powers, directing them to propose that the Representatives of the six Powers at Constantinople should be instructed to address an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte requiring the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Berlin Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

His Excellency went on to say that Her Majesty's Government had thus taken the lead in all these questions, and, as that respecting Montenegro had become the most pressing, they had drawn up the collective note just presented to the Porte; that, with respect to the Greek frontier question, he could not admit that the initiative remained with France, and he declared that her initiative entirely ceased from the period of the Berlin Conference; that he thought that if France were now to draw up a collective note, as requested, the other Powers would be astonished, and certainly public opinion in this country would be agitated; that, if the Armenian question had come up now instead of the Greek, and Russia, so interested in it, had been called upon to draw up a collective note with reference to Armenia, the French Government would have been equally astonished.

M. de Freycinet further remarked that England was in a very different position to that of France; that after the misfortunes of the latter country it behoved her to be particularly careful, and not to put herself forward in any manner which might involve her in complications, leading to any separate action on her part.

I have, I believe, thus given the principal arguments used by M. de Freycinet in our long conversation.

On my part, I argued that France had certainly shown a particular interest in the Greek frontier question; that it seemed natural that she should draw up the collective rejoinder; that I could not share his Excellency's apprehension that the other Powers would be astonished at her doing so; that there was no need of the French press learning that such was the case, at least for some time; that he must allow that Her Majesty's Government had shown great goodwill towards France, and, as an instance, had obtained for her Government the assurance which he had demanded, that the naval demonstration should equally apply to Greece when the moment arrived, and that he was throwing the whole responsibility on Her Majesty's Government. All this, and much more, I pressed upon his Excellency to the best of my ability.

M. de Freycinet said that he had given me his first impression, but he would, as I wished, reflect upon the matter. He would speak to others about it. He was going at once to see the President of the Republic, and he would avail himself of the opportunity to give to M. Grévy a full account of our conversation, and would ask his opinion. He would communicate to me, either verbally or in writing, the decision at which he should ultimately arrive.

I then made a strong appeal to M. de Freycinet in favour of your Lordship's request, and I expressed the earnest hope that, considering the intimate relations between the two Governments, and the goodwill already shown on our side, he would be able to agree to the proposal that the French Government should draw up the collective rejoinder to be presented to the Porte.

M. de Freycinet promised me that he would give his most serious attention to your Lordship's proposal, and he added a few words expressing the earnest desire of the French Government to act in all things particularly in unison with that of Her Majesty.

In conclusion, I feel it to be my duty to state to your Lordship that it is evident to me that, personally, M. de Freycinet is entirely averse from making one single step, however small it may be, in advance of any other Power, and that he seems determined to confine himself to following in the wake of the other Powers, as far as any common diplomatic action is concerned.

In fact, I believe that, in the article from "Le Temps," copies of which are inclosed in my despatch No. 685 of this day, your Lordship will find a very accurate exposition of the policy which his Excellency wishes to pursue.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 92.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 685.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 4, 1880.*

YESTERDAY evening's issue of "Le Temps" contained an article purporting to be an answer to certain foreign newspapers, and in particular to a letter from the Paris correspondent of the "Times" which appeared in that paper on the 2nd instant, with respect to the present policy of France on the Eastern question.

The article combats the notion that astonishment should be shown because France, who was the first to defend the cause of Greece at the Congress of Berlin, should draw back from an armed intervention to force the Porte to execute the decisions of the Conference.

The policy of France is stated to be no longer to assist other nations by arms; to join the other powers in common diplomatic action; to be disposed even to take part in a naval demonstration in the Adriatic; but not to shed one drop of her blood for any cause which is not exclusively national. England may intervene in Turkey, and other Powers nearer the Danube may prematurely reopen the Eastern question with all its dangers; but France left the Congress of Berlin with empty hands; she may at least have her hands free and consecrate all her strength to raise herself up again. This is a clear and simple policy, so necessary and natural that the press of all parties are always agreed in supporting it, and that a Minister who should forget it would run the risk of being overturned, not through fear, but through the national sentiment of the nation.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the article in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 93.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 5.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 21 Juillet,* 1880.

IL résulte des informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte que, loin de mettre un terme aux vexations qu'ils font subir à leurs compatriotes Musulmans, les Bulgares continuent à les maltraiter avec une animosité de plus en plus croissante.

Dernièrement, les Musulmans de Billova, à la suite de la sécheresse de cette année, se rendaient, selon l'usage, au village d'Akhallis pour y faire des prières publiques, lorsque des miliciens Bulgares, appuyés par les habitants des localités avoisinantes, tombèrent sur Billova, le pillèrent et le dévastèrent complétement; la plupart des habitants, hommes ou femmes, furent mis à mort par les agresseurs, qui ne se retirèrent qu'après avoir commis des actes révoltants et en emmenant avec eux plus de 200 femmes et enfants qu'ils dirigèrent sur les villages de Cadi, de Rouch-Tépen et de Tchiplak, dépendants du district de Pravadi.

Ceux des infortunés habitants de Billova qui ont échappé au massacre viennent de présenter une requête à la Sublime Porte pour lui exposer leur situation et réclamer la restitution de leurs biens.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, je vous prie de vouloir bien le signaler à la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et le prier de faire à Sofia des représentations énergiques pour la punition des coupables et la restitution aux habitants de Billova des effets et objets qui leur ont été volés. Quant à empêcher à l'avenir le renouvellement de pareils actes, je m'en réfère aux conclusions de ma dépêche Circulaire du 15 Juillet, 1880.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 94.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5, 8 A.M.)

(No. 120 [*sic*].)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 4,* 1880, 11 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 449, the Russian Government consents with alacrity to your proposal that the French Government should draft the rejoinder to the Turkish note respecting the Greek frontier.

No. 95.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 5,* 1880.

AUSTRIAN Government agree with your Lordship in thinking that the draft of the rejoinder to the note of the Porte on the Greek Frontier question should be prepared by the French Government, if the other Governments consent to it.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 5,* 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE left Vienna yesterday for Nordenny, near Bremen, where he proposes to stay about three weeks.

No. 97.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 425.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 5,* 1880, 2 P.M.

YOURS No. 119.

Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with Baron Haymerle's view as to Porte's assurance of intention to carry out Dulcigno arrangement.

No. 98.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 5,* 1880, 2·10 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 63.

No objection to your taking your family to Ragusa, and your going to Cettinjé to see the Prince. You should not, however, absent yourself from Albania, as your services will be required if the naval demonstration takes place, and it is important that Her Majesty's Government should be kept thoroughly informed of what the Turkish authorities are doing to carry out the cession to Montenegro demanded in the collective note which was addressed to the Porte yesterday.

No. 99.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 5, 5 P.M.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 5,* 1880, 12·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 27 of the 3rd August, I communicated yesterday to M. Tricoupi substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 27.

To-day a Proclamation has been issued convoking the Chamber for the 20th September. A Decree will be published this afternoon to partially mobilize the army; that is,

in the first instance, to retain in the ranks trained soldiers whose time has expired, and, secondly, to call out for drilling thoroughly those classes which have hitherto not served at all.

The measure will be nothing of an aggressive character, but one of preparation for action in future if required.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 360.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 151 and 154, if the Porte undertakes to carry out the Dulcigno proposal you are authorized to agree with your colleagues to stipulate precise conditions as to the mode of transfer by the Turks of the ceded territories. It should be made clear that the civil authorities and military force should not retire from the positions to be ceded until those of the Montenegrins are on the spot to replace them.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880, 7 P.M.

A COLLECTIVE note was presented to Porte on 3rd instant to following effect:—

After acknowledging Turkish note of 15th ultimo, the Governments regret they cannot accept these proposals as satisfactory. They have learnt that Porte has sent reinforcements and supplies to the Montenegro frontier, and they assume that these have been sent with the intention of faithfully carrying out its engagements. They cannot consent that the system of delay which has hitherto been practised, and which has led to the present situation, should be continued, and they must call upon the Porte to bring it to a close. They believe that it would be more in the interest of the Porte at once to carry out the Dulcigno proposal, and they recommend it as most advantageous to all parties. If, however, the Turkish Government prefer to adhere to the April arrangement, they must understand that, unless it is carried out within three weeks from the date of this note, the Porte will be expected to join the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan.

No. 102.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 497.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 4th instant reporting that Baron Haymerle does not consider that the assurance of the Porte of its intention to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement should cause the abandonment of the projected demonstration which should take place if Montenegro is not put into possession of the new territory within three weeks; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in Baron Haymerle's views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 499.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me on the 3rd instant, and gave me the memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed,* relative to the form in which the Protocol should be drawn up, disclaiming any selfish intention on the part of the Powers in regard to their present concerted action.

I told M. Hengelmüller that I understood the French Government to have given their consent to the Protocol in the form already proposed, that I had myself no objection to offer to the wording proposed by the Austrian Government, but that I thought it would be better to wait till the answers of the Powers were received to the propositions already before them before starting a fresh modification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1064.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

I AM informed by the French Minister that M. de Freycinet thinks that, as the Greek frontier-line laid down by the Powers was adopted after exhaustive inquiries and discussion, it is impossible to comply with the Porte's request for a reconsideration of it.

Count de Montebello further says that, as regards the best means of establishing the frontier-line, his Excellency hopes that the Powers will come to an agreement as to the course they should pursue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 39.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE read with satisfaction your despatch No. 51 of the 11th ultimo, giving an account of the arrangements made by the Commissioners for the private discussion of the questions before them, by which complete harmony has been assured at their official meetings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 106.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 415.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador informed me to-day that his Government had sent instructions to their Ambassador at Constantinople to the effect that, if the Porte decided to accept the Dulcigno arrangement, they must take immediate and effective measures, without any *arrière pensée*, for the peaceable surrender to Montenegro of the districts included in the proposed frontier-line.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 45.

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 118.)
Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the steps you took for the preparation and presentation to the Greek Government of the collective note communicating the award of the Berlin Conference, as reported in your despatch No. 242 of the 16th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 108.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 83.)
Foreign Office, August 5, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of the collective note which was presented to the Porte on the 3rd instant in reply to the Turkish note of the 15th ultimo on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier. Its substance has already been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 109.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 689.)
Paris, August 5, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 684 of yesterday I recorded a conversation which I had had with M. de Freycinet respecting the desire of Her Majesty's Government that the French Government should draw up the collective rejoinder to be addressed by the Powers to the Porte, in answer to the latter's reply to the note of the Powers on the Greek frontier question.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which reached me yesterday evening from M. de Freycinet, and from which it appears that the President of the Republic shares the opinion of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, adverse to complying with the desire of Her Majesty's Government on the matter in question.

I telegraphed the substance of this letter yesterday evening to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 109.

M. de Freycinet to Mr. Adams.

Paris, le 4 Août, 1880.

Cher M. Adams,

J'AI vu ce matin M. le Président de la République qui partage entièrement mon sentiment. Je vous prie donc de vouloir bien transmettre à Lord Granville les considérations que je vous ai présentées, en lui renouvelant en même temps notre désir de marcher en parfait accord avec lui sur ces questions.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DE FREYCINET.

No. 110.

Aëdine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 6.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)
Constantinople, le 5 Août, 1880.

AU milieu des difficultés contre lesquelles nous avons à lutter en ce moment nous comptons toujours pour en sortir sur le concours bienveillant des Puissances amies. Nous

avons surtout nos regards tournés vers la Grande Bretagne. Nous faisons appel à ses sentiments d'amitié traditionnelle, et nous espérons qu'ils ne nous feront pas défaut dans nos efforts ayant pour objet d'éliminer des questions pendantes les éléments de complications.

No. 111.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, August 6, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 374.

German Government will send instructions to Constantinople similar to your Lordship's to Mr. Goschen No. 360, respecting mode of transfer by the Turks of territory to be ceded to Montenegro.

No. 112.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, August 6, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE approves idea of asking French Government to draft reply to note of Porte respecting Greek frontier.

No. 113.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6, 3 P.M.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 6, 1880, *noon.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 355, repeating Sir H. Elliot's No. 119, I venture also to urge most strongly that it is of the utmost importance that naval demonstration should take place. The tone of the press in France and Austria, and of part of the English press, is exercising deplorable influence on the Sultan's mind, and counteracting our declaration as to concert of Europe and danger of resistance. The display of an international fleet would be the best reply, and the acceptance of the Turks will not be so unequivocal or certain of execution as to make it right to dispense with presence of the fleet.

No. 114.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6, 3 P.M.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.)
Buyukdéré, August 6, 1880, 10 A.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 38, Mr. Green's plan for the Pashalik of Scutari contained in his despatch No. 176 is very vague, but does not appear to differ materially from the Turkish law for which he desires to substitute it, so far as the appointment of Governor, Sub-Governor, and the administrative division of the country is concerned. He wishes, however, to take the first steps towards gradually bringing the mountain tribes into this organization. I see great risks in this. It might seem an interference with ancient rights, and excite the whole country. A general reserve of the tribal rights, such as that in the 13th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, would be safer. Nobody exactly knows what these rights are, and altering them in any way is dangerous.

No. 115.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 6, *noon.)*

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.)
Buyukdéré, August 6, 1880, 10·30 A.M.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram No. 118, I do not propose that the Commission should delimitate the vilayets in the body of the law, but that in its Report

it should make certain recommendations in regard to the subject from the point of view of the local needs of the provinces mentioned in Article XXIII.

Please explain this at Vienna.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880, 3·10 P.M.

ADMIRALTY are anxious to receive by telegraph, through this Office, reports in detail of any supplies of war material or troops which may be landed by the Turkish Government at Salonica or Volo, or any ports in that neighbourhood. Please issue orders accordingly.

No. 117.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 429.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Government have proposed that the Powers should make provision for equitable treatment of Catholic and Mussulman inhabitants in the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, and should inform the Porte of their intention. I have said that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to join the other Powers in any representations to Montenegro or assurances to the Porte that might be considered necessary.

Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople will be instructed to consult with his colleagues as to form of communication to the Porte. When arranged, Austrian Consul-General at Scutari will be informed in order that the fact may be made known there.

Articles XXVII and XXX of the Treaty of Berlin seem to cover the question.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 365.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880, 7·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 161.

I should wish you to express in a marked manner the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the nominations of Mehemet Ali and others on the Sivas Council have been cancelled, and that activity has been shown in regard to the refugees in that vilayet.

No. 119.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 355. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me confidentially this afternoon the telegram of which I inclose a copy herewith,† stating that, in their present difficulties, the Turkish Government counted upon the assistance of the friendly Powers—and especially upon that of England.

I said that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to act in friendly concurrence with the Porte, and that it was this feeling and the desire to see Turkey take those steps which would conduce to the real advantage of the Sultan and the Turkish Empire which made Her Majesty's Government, in concert with the Powers of Europe, press upon the Porte the measures which appeared to us necessary for that purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 364).

† No. 110.

No. 120.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 356.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires handed to me to-day the telegram from the Porte of which I inclose a copy, relative to the Greek frontier question.*

I remarked that it seemed merely a confirmation of the desire already expressed by the Porte that this matter should be discussed between the Turkish Government and the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople. It must rest with the Powers to decide among themselves what answer should be returned to that proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 121.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 441. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador asked me yesterday whether I was still of opinion that the Porte would yield eventually to the demands of the Powers.

I said that I adhered to my opinion that such would be the case, and I looked less to the disposition at present existing at Constantinople than to the demeanour of the Powers themselves. Provided that the present attitude of agreement and determination were maintained I thought that the Porte must in the end give way, though of course it was impossible to say yet how far matters would have to be pushed in evidence of that determination.

I took the opportunity to observe that the Turkish Representative at Rome appeared to have very accurate information as to the trifling differences which had from time to time arisen between the several Governments in regard to the course of procedure to be followed, but which had happily been successively disposed of; and I urged the necessity of caution in avoiding disclosures which would encourage hopes on the part of the Porte of dissensions among the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 122.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 507.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 6, 1880.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires told me some days ago that his Government thought it would be desirable that the Powers should make provision for the equitable treatment of the Catholic and Mussulman inhabitants of the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, and should inform the Porte that it was their intention to do so.

I replied that we should be ready to join with the other Powers in any representations to Montenegro or assurances to the Porte that might be deemed necessary for the purpose.

M. Hengelmüller has since informed me that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to consult with Mr. Goschen and his other colleagues as to the form in which this communication should be addressed to the Porte, and that when the consent of all the Powers had been obtained, Baron Haymerle proposed to inform the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari in order that the fact might be made known there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Dated August 5.

No. 123.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 82.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 217 of the 19th ultimo, stating that reports have been spread by the Turkish authorities at Scutari unfavourable to you, as Her Majesty's Representative, in connection with the concessions which the Porte is called upon to make to Montenegro, and I approve the representations which you have made to Izzet Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 124.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 230. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 25, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 31 of the 20th May last, only received by me on the 12th of this month, I have the honour to state that no officer belonging to any of the Consulates in Scutari accompanied the Turkish troops when they evacuated, on the 22nd April last, the positions ceded by the Protocol of the 18th April to Montenegro.

The share taken by a Delegate from the Italian Consulate in giving notice to the Montenegrin Commander at Podgoritza of the intended withdrawal of the Turks from the ceded districts is clearly set forth in Annex No. 2 to Sawas Pasha's *note verbale* communicated to your Lordship by Sir Henry Layard in his despatch No. 473 of the 29th April last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 125.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 231. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 25, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that, in compliance with the educational laws of Montenegro, all children, of whatever religion they may be, are obliged to attend the public school of the district in which they reside.

At Antivari, and other localities where Roman Catholics exist, the children of that persuasion have been granted permission to attend for an hour, once a-week, at the Catholic priest's house, for the purpose of receiving from him religious instruction. The masters of the public schools belong to the Orthodox Slav faith, but are generally laymen.

There is no foundation for the report that permission to open a church recently constructed has been withheld from the Roman Catholics of Antivari. The Prince promised to make a grant of a piece of ground to these Roman Catholics for a cemetery, as they had, during the Ottoman rule, been obliged to use a piece of land in common with the Slav Christians, but some temporary difficulty appears to have arisen about the ground which the Roman Catholics had hoped would be given to them.

In justice to the Prince of Montenegro, I am obliged to state that he has shown the greatest anxiety to conform himself with the terms of the XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that both the Roman Catholics and Mahommedans who have recently become his subjects admit the equity and tolerance of his rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 126.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 232. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 26, 1880.*

THE news arriving from Prisrend depicts the administration of North-east Albania as being rapidly taken out of the hands of the Ottoman officials by the local Committees; but what can hardly be explained is the connection that appears to exist between these self-constituted authorities and the secret influences in the Sultan's Palace.

At Uscup the Mutessarif and several other high officials have been ordered away, and replaced by an Albanian Committee, whilst the Vali of Kossovo has accepted, without question, an intimation that all stores of arms and ammunition must be placed under the custody of native bodies appointed for the purpose.

At Prisrend itself the Lieutenant-Governor is powerless, and follows implicitly the orders of the few Beys and Aghas who call themselves the representatives of the people, and the Mutessarif is justified in thus submitting himself, as I learn from a most trustworthy source that the Prisrend Committee has within the last few days received, direct from the Sultan's Palace, a donation, in gold, of £ T. 17,000.

The entire scope of these proceedings must, for the moment, remain a mystery, as it is evidently not connected with the expected resistance to be offered on the Greek frontier, for a deputation which arrived recently at Prisrend from Epirus to solicit assistance has been dismissed with the intimation that the dangers threatening these northern borders from Servia, Austria, and Montenegro are too imminent to permit any of their forces to be sent southwards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 127.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 233. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed that the redifs of the first ban have been called out in Middle Albania, in order to bring up the nizam battalions of the 3rd Army Corps, which are incomplete through a paucity of recruits, to a war footing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 128.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 77. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Salonica, July 24, 1880.*

ON the morning of the 20th instant I received two documents, translated copies of which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency, purporting to be a

minute of a Provisional National Assembly of Macedonia, and a letter from the members of a Provisional Government, elected by and from that Assembly.

The bearer thereof having stated that similar documents had also been presented to the Consuls of the other Great Powers, I made inquiries, and discovered that not only my Austrian and Italian colleague, but also the Turkish authorities, and the Greek Archbishop and leading members of his community, absolutely ignored the existence of this political movement. It appears, however, that copies similar to those received here were also left at the Russian Consulate-General.

Nothing has been heard as yet in the other principal towns of Macedonia in connection with the insurrectionary meeting in which the above documents were drawn up. Nor do the letters which I have recently received from the interior mention the subject. There is, however, strong suspicion on the part of the Greek Archbishop that the documents in question, although prepared with considerable care, and couched in form and language which give them a Greek origin, are the production of a Slav Committee which for some time has been engaged in getting up petitions to the Great Powers in the interest of a Pan-Bulgarian movement.

It is worthy of remark that the documents are drawn up in very good Greek, and that the date of one of the numerous seals affixed to them is 1870, and the date of the letter inclosing the minute has been altered from 187- to 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Minute of Proceedings of Provisional National Assembly of Macedonia, June 2, 1880.

(Translation.)

WE, the undersigned Representatives of the different sandjaks of Macedonia, provisionally chosen by the Macedonian people, having assembled this day, the 21st May, in the year of our Lord 1880, on Mount Grimmon, in the district of Ostrovo, for the purpose of generally examining the political condition of our country, and at the same time of acting in every manner that may conduce to the realization of Macedonian desires, after different propositions had been made the following was agreed to by all the members of the Provisional National Assembly of the Macedonians:—

"Whereas in the Macedonian territory for centuries oppression and violence on the part of brigands, and even of functionaries of the Administration, have continued, public safety is always in danger, and the life and property of the citizen is in general precarious.

"Whereas very many colonies of Circassians have been established in Macedonia, whose devastation and pillage of all our lands have been the scourge of our country.

"Whereas Macedonia, from its geographical position, lying, as it does, in the middle of European Turkey, has been ever the victim of all the rebellions that have taken place there, and through it have passed the different hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Ghegs, who from all sides inundate our luckless territories, invariably strip us to the bone; and in order to pay them we water the ground with our sweat, more like beasts than human beings.

"Whereas in Macedonia, more than any other country, ethnological divisions into Greeks, Slavs, Wallachs, Albanians, and Osmanlis have been made for a political purpose; and our conquerors, by this skilful policy of theirs, seek to dismember the once glorious Macedonia, and ruin our national existence by scattering the torches of discord amongst us, that we may remain for ever in our present torment.

"Whereas all the other lands under Turkish sovereignty were represented in different ways in the national assemblies of the Great European Powers, and the different Treaties on the existing Eastern question, and only Macedonia remains bereft of any effectual action, and instead of being supported by all, by the erasure of its own nationality it still remains in a torpid state of existence, in opposition to progress and civilization, and deprived of every political and civil right.

"Whereas in the recent political changes which have taken place, Roumania, Servia, and Montenegro, by the final Treaty of Berlin, have obtained the full enjoyment of their independence. Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and Crete have obtained civil rights by the concessions of autonomous Constitutions, and Epirus and Thessaly are looking forward to union with Greece. Macedonia alone, which at a more ancient epoch spread civilization,

and which can point to Aristotle and the Great Alexander, is alone bereft of every protection, and even a voice for its own existence.

"Whereas although the civil rights conceded by recent Treaties would be considered few in any country but European Turkey, no trace has hitherto appeared of their realization, and although the XVth Article of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano recognized the full autonomy of a great part of Macedonia, the Great Powers which conferred at Berlin together, anxious on behalf of the peoples of the East and of opinion that no part should be separated from Macedonia in its entirety, substituted for this XVth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano the XXIIIrd Article of the definitive Treaty of Berlin, and centralized the whole of Macedonia, granting it an Organic Statute like that given in 1868 to Crete the Magnanimous; notwithstanding all this, nearly two years have elapsed since this divinely written Treaty, and the Sublime Porte has not considered in the slightest how to apply this Organic Statute, a slight consolation for much suffering Macedonia. For all the above reasons those who have to-day met together in the name of the Macedonian people have deliberated and unanimously resolve:—

"1. That the just demands of the Macedonian people shall be forwarded to the Sublime Porte as soon as possible by his Excellency the Vali of Macedonia, that the application of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin as regards unjustly suffering Macedonia, which invites its regular Representatives to discuss and apply the Organic Statute with the modifications specified in the said Article, may be hastened as much as possible.

"2. That this minute be handed to the Consuls, the Representatives in Macedonia of the Great European Powers co-signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, and that they be requested to forward it to their Courts, with our warm request that the Great Powers may be pleased to urge on the Sublime Porte the speedy execution and application of the resolutions in the Treaty of Berlin concerning Macedonia.

"3. That the above be simultaneously urged in Constantinople also in conformity with the resolutions and decisions.

"4. That we appoint to-day from the National Assembly here present a Provisional Government of Macedonia composed for the present of three members, viz., Messrs. Basil Schomo, Anastasius Demetrowitch, and Ali Effendi (an Albanian), for the execution of our resolutions of to-day.

"5. That the Provisional Government of the Macedonians do for the present act as follows:—

"(1.) It will work in the greatest secrecy so as to obtain the help of the Great Powers that their decisions in the Treaty of Berlin on the subject of Macedonia may be put in force as soon as possible.

"(2.) It will appoint its military chiefs that in the event of ill-success the Macedonian people may make every sacrifice to obtain the realization of Macedonian desires.

"(3.) It will observe if the Sublime Porte pursues the policy of delay, and then by a decisive Proclamation it will invite the Macedonian people to arms, and at the holy signal alone Macedonia on behalf of Macedonia will take upon itself the contest for its own existence.

"(4.) After the above Proclamation it will ask for every assistance from all the Governments interested, for the regeneration of ancient Macedonia and also from those who are zealous for freedom everywhere, and will invite them in the name of those principles of every philanthropic heart to make noble sacrifices.

"(5.) The provisional organization of the military and civil authorities, the finding the means for the execution of the above, the emblems of the Macedonian flag, and of the seals, and all that concerns the organization of the Provisional Administration, will be looked to by the Provisional Government in its own resolutions."

We rest all our hopes on the compassion of the Lord.

The President,
(Signed) BASIL SCHOMO.

May 21 / June 2. 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

The Provisional Government of Macedonia to Consul-General Blunt.

WE have the honour to inclose herewith a minute of this day's date of the Provisional National Assembly of the Macedonians, having been charged by its second Decree to request you will be pleased to forward it to the Government of your august Sovereign.

Trusting to your upright and liberal feelings that these just demands of the Macedonian people will be accompanied with your own report,

We remain, &c.

The Provisional Government of Macedonia:

The President,

(Signed) SARPAS BASILIN.

The Members,

ANASTASIUS DEMETROVITCH.

ALI EFFENDI.

$\frac{\text{May 31}}{\text{June 12}}$, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 128.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Salonica, July 25*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, the translated extract from a letter which I have received from Monastir, giving some items of information on passing events in that vilayet. My correspondent does not allude to the alleged seditious movement and establishment of a Provisional Government in the district of Ostrowa, as reported in my preceding despatch on Macedonian affairs. He would have heard and reported to me some particulars of these transactions had they occurred, for Ostrowa is administratively connected and in direct and frequent communication with the town of Monastir.

I also inclose the translation of a letter from Castoria, as published in the local Greek newspaper the "Hermes," relative to the successful pursuit of brigandage in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 128.

Extract from a Letter from Monastir, July $\frac{2}{14}$, 1880.

I VENTURE to ask you to excuse me for not having written to you for such a long time, as you had left for Constantinople, whence doubtless you have returned in good health. As regards the hopes I had that things would change, &c., that the people would be quiet, things have become worse. To begin with, the members of the administration, great and small, are irritated; they care not for the good of the people, but only their own interests; and now when the peasants have sufficient work on hand they compel them to work on the road from Novae to Monastir. They have given orders to the Khojabaschis of every district that when the road is finished baskets should be made according to the value of the land as a sort of store-houses for the tithe of Government Indian corn. Three-quarters of the peasants suffer great hunger on account of the dearness here; 88 okes of Indian corn are now worth 195 piastres; they have sold their cattle to buy food, and now have to spend money on storing Government maize. This year cereals are moderate; maize promises a splendid crop; we had sufficient rain. Here the roads are very dangerous on account of several brigands; no one dares to go into the country, and there have been several murders. Outside Perlepe and Monastir two Christians returning from Servia were murdered; murderers not discovered. The inhabitants of some villages called Poreli in the Caza of Kurtchowo suffer from a Turk named Jem, who, with twenty or twenty-five companions, goes to the villages, robs the peasants of their money, then seizes the women and girls and violates them, nobody daring to say a word, as the other brigands guard the house doors with guns loaded. It is nearly two months since a young brigand named Umer, of Doletche, went to Diovat and informed six of the wealthiest men in the district that they were to send a large sum of money in a week's time. The six Christians, however, answered, "We have not got that sum." At the end of the week he burnt their houses. The six families resolved to go to Monastir and settle there. They left the district, but on the road were met by Ayoub Agha, capitan of the gendarmerie, sent by the Vali, and he compelled them to return to their despair. As Kiazim Bey, Beuluc Baschi, was not made Beuluc Baschi this year, he became a capitan with 150 brigands

from Albania. The Greek Christian inhabitants of Monastir sent a petition to Constantinople, as they want Greek to be used in the administration as the second language in official documents. Several Albanians of Scutari are going about all the towns of Albania, that there may be an understanding between them for a war with Montenegro, but they are not agreed. They went to Tirana and were answered, "We are ready to unite with you, but we want to know which of the Great Powers is your ally, as it is impossible without help from one of them." Albania of Scutari is not agreed at present; some people want a European occupation, others autonomy. Besides this, men of Scutari have come here and are secretly collecting money among the leading Turks to make war on Montenegro. Some give and others do not, as they are suspicious.

Inclosure 6 in No. 128.

Extract from the "Hermes" of Salonica, July $\frac{13}{25}$, 1880.

THE following was written to us from Castoria on the $\frac{\text{29th June}}{\text{11th July}}$, 1880:—

"On the 2nd ultimo the Kersedar of Monastir, Abédine, was informed that the celebrated brigand chief Kiazim from Colonia, with the brigand chiefs Ahmed Llapi and Cara Nascho, had appeared in the direction of Grammosta, and went out to reconnoitre there. But on that evening the brigands made a descent on the village of Chrubesta about half-past two at night, entered the house of the Mukhtar there, stripped him and carried him off with his son and two nephews along with them, one of the inhabitants being killed and three wounded in the conflict that took place. They then withdrew and went to the village of Kotelezi, where they passed the night. Abédine was in a place opposite called Livadia, between Tschuli and Kotelezi, with only 25 men, as, not knowing that the brigands were at Kotelezi, he had scattered the rest here and there. Waking up very early in the morning he sees two men coming towards him, whom he at once asked who they were, but they, instead of answering, fired on him, and hence a conflict began. Abédine was surrounded by the 150 brigands and shot in four places. Six of the captain's men, amongst whom was the undaunted Haji, were killed and two wounded. Of the brigands the chief Kiazim was killed, Cara Nascho and six others; the wounded the brigands took with them. They went straight to Grammosta, and Abédine went off to collect his men, which having done, he marched against the brigands, whom he again met on the Grammosta mountains, where, on the 5th ultimo, they fought. First to fall was the brigand chief, Ahmed Llapi, and with him seven others, whose heads and arms were brought to Castoria and there exposed. Other corpses too were seen on the mountains by a shepherd. Thus by Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha's instructions, and the ability of Captain Abédine, brigandage has received a timely check, and the inhabitants have taken courage and proceed to their work. No less praiseworthy in these events is the conduct of Cadri Bey, the Kaimakam, who governs intelligently and uprightly. This year we have abundance of fruits. May they be kept sound till they are stored up in the store-houses."

No. 129.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 79. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 25*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch with two inclosures which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 129.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Salonica, July 25*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth's despatch of the 21st instant, reporting the arrival at Larissa of Khalil Bey, the new Governor of Thessaly.

Khalil Bey, of whose character and reforming disposition Mr. Longworth gives such an encouraging account, is the son of Timur Pasha, a large land-owner in Epirus, of which he is a native, and holding the appointment of Mutessarif of Berat, a sandjak in that province. It is a very significant fact that the Porte has been bestowing of late several important appointments in the frontier provinces on native Albanians, principally of the Toska tribe.

I have also the honour to inclose copy of a further Report from Mr. Longworth upon the condition of the criminals in the prison at Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, July 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to report that, on the 2nd instant, Khalil Bey, the new Civil Governor of Thessaly, arrived here from Constantinople.

His Excellency is of good Toska Albanian family, from the town of Arghyro-castro, in Epirus, and is by marriage well connected at Constantinople.

In appearance he is young and prepossessing, and in capacity, education, courtesy of manners and liberality of ideas, he is evidently far superior to the ex-Mutessarif.

He speaks French and Greek fluently, and is also acquainted with the German and Italian languages, having been engaged formerly in the Diplomatic and Consular Services of his country in Austria, Italy, and Greece.

Judging from first impressions, he is likely to win the esteem and confidence of the people, for in character and conduct he has hitherto exhibited only what is commendable, forming thus a striking contrast to his predecessor, whose laxity and corruption, narrow-mindedness and injustice, rendered him most obnoxious to the natives in general and to the Europeans in particular.

Khalil Bey has formed a praiseworthy resolution to ameliorate the condition of Thessaly, and is already doing something in that direction. He is fully aware of the depravity, incapacity, and inactivity of his officials; and he quite understands the paramount necessity of putting order to the general confused and disorganized state of the Administration, but so utterly vitiated are the moral principles and upright feelings of his subordinates throughout the province, that no process or operation dependent solely on his influence and authority can possibly meet with success in so arduous and hopeless a task of reformation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 130.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 82. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 13 of the 10th May, 1879, and No. 18 of the 9th February last, on the subject of the misconduct of Colonel Hassan Bey, late Alaï Bey, or Commandant of the Salonica Police, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that that officer has been convicted of receiving bribes by the local military Court. He is condemned to three years' imprisonment in the fortress of Rhodes, and to the restitution of the bribes he had exacted from the Christian and Turkish peasants in the district of Ghevgheli.

Two of his subordinate officers, namely, Yuzbashi Hourshid Agha and Mulazim Yussuf Effendi, who were proved to have been implicated in his malpractices, have been condemned to six months' incarceration in the local convict prison. The Katib, or Secretary of the Police, is also accused before the same Court of participating in Hassan Bey's exactions.

Great influence was brought to bear upon Arif Pasha, the President of the Military Court, with a view of screening the above police officers, but his Excellency very properly refused to yield to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 131.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 83. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 28, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter which I received yesterday evening from my correspondent at Catterina relative to a serious act of brigandage which was committed on the 23rd instant in the district of Allassona, on the other side of Mount Olympus, in Thessaly; and to a horrible outrage perpetrated by a Turkish military officer (a Circassian) on one of the Christian members of the Medjliss of Allassona.

I also inclose extract from a letter which I received this morning from Mr. H. Suter, a British subject, who is engaged in mining operations in Ourmelia, in the district of Cassandra, in Macedonia, informing me of the suspicious proceedings of a band of brigands in that neighbourhood.

I have already communicated to the Governor-General of Salonica the substance of Mr. Suter's letter, and requested his Excellency to despatch at once to the spot a sufficient force for the protection of that gentleman and his family; but after what happened to Colonel Synge, and in view of the general unsettled state of affairs in this province, I feel under some apprehension lest anything similar should befall British subjects who reside in the interior. I have, therefore, sent a letter to Mr. Suter by special messenger, recommending him to return to Salonica, or to remove his quarters to Polyghero, a township not far from, and less exposed than, Ourmelia.

I inclose a copy of my letter, and have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Extract from a Letter from Catterina, dated July 25, 1880.

(Translation.)

ON Friday, the 23rd instant, Thanasi, a doctor of Vlakholivado, was requested to go to Catafi to visit a sick person. He went, and on his return home, though accompanied by an escort of ten soldiers, was attacked by brigands, who had occupied a place through which he had to pass, and carried off. It is reported that six soldiers were killed and two taken prisoners.

The same day, at the meeting of the Medjliss of Elassona, a Circassian captain (Yuzbashi) was present, and, without any provocation, aimed a blow at Joga (George) Haji Zoidi, one of the members of the Council. Haji Yoidi put up his arm to protect himself, and was wounded on the hand. The Circassian aimed a second blow, and this time wounded him on the head. He would have wounded him a third time, but the ceiling of the room being low, the blade stuck in it, when those who were present, Turks and Christians, got up and seized him. Haji Zoidi was taken home, and is at present in a very dangerous state. The captain was brought before the Major in command, who put him under arrest, bound him, and sent him to Larissa.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Mr. Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Ourmelia, July* 26, 1880.

I HAVE just received the following information: The brigands are at Vrasta, and yesterday sent a spy into this village to make arrangements with some person to buy them food, wine, &c. A certain Beki, an ex-brigand, was proposed, but the brigands would not

have him, as they said, he being now a poor man, and being an ex-brigand would excite suspicion if he bought unusual quantities of provisions. They said they must have a man of certain means to make their purchases, as he would not so easily be suspected. They also want this person to show them the way about the village, and for these services have offered 50*l*. You are well aware that brigands never attack a village without having some one of the inhabitants as their accomplices.

It is now beyond a doubt that the brigands were close to this on Sunday, the 11th of this month, as both of my men heard Martini shots. It is certain that no soldiers were out at that time of the morning, so it could have been no others. Besides, my informant about the Vrasta brigands tells me he knew that they were about that morning.

It is, therefore, very possible that an attack is meditated, the prize in view being myself.

Through the Mukhtar the nizams, who were located close to my house, have been removed to the very far end of the village.

The former "onbashi," or corporal, of the Albanians, Ali-onbashi, has been taken to Salonica, and is with Yussuf Bey. He is a most active and intelligent man, and I had the greatest confidence in him. The present corporal is not worth his salt. Ali was to have returned in a few days, but has not made his appearance yet. Would you kindly have him sent back, with four Albanians, not Christians, as these are worthless, to replace three Christians and one Albanian who are far from reassuring.

The Tchaoush of the nizams is anxious to have a house near mine, as he considers his quarters too far from mine. I would pay the rent of his quarters myself. Probably there is some design in keeping him at a distance.

The fact of the Mulazim and "onbashi" of Larigova having been reprimanded for having shot a brigand has had far from a salutary effect on the men here, and it would be a good thing if I could assure them on your part that in case of attack they would be rewarded for killing a brigand, instead of being punished.

It would relieve me greatly if you would have Ali and the four Albanians sent up immediately, as Vrasta is about two-and-a-half hours from here.

I think that in a few days I could get a clue to the whereabouts of the brigands if I thought it would lead to any good.

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Suter.

Dear Sir, *Salonica, July* 28, 1880.

THE information you give me in your letter of the 26th instant with reference to the presence and proceedings of brigands in your neighbourhood makes me anxious about your personal safety.

Of course I shall do my utmost to induce the authorities to take all the necessary measures for your protection, but considering the growing disquietude in that part of the country, the limited military means at the disposal of the authorities, and, above all, the circumstances attending the capture of Colonel Synge, and the great temptations to which the brigands are exposed by its results, I feel I am justified in recommending you to return with your family to Salonica, or, at all events, to remove your quarters to Polygero, which, I hear, is far less exposed than your present residence.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 132.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 263. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, July* 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a memorandum which M. Tricoupi has communicated to me, relative to the preponderance given to the Bulgarian or Slav over the Greek element of the population in the organization of Eastern Roumelia, Macedonia, and Thrace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Memorandum.

LES aspirations de l'élément Grec se trouvent en parfait accord avec le but poursuivi actuellement par les Puissances et visé par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

En effet, la Commission Internationale réunie à Constantinople pour introduire des réformes dans la Thrace et la Macédoine, a pour mission, non-seulement de doter ces provinces d'un régime administratif qui les mit à l'abri des vexations des autorités Ottomanes, mais aussi de maintenir l'équilibre entre les trois races, c'est-à-dire les Grecs, Turcs, et Bulgares qui habitent ces contrées.

Les Grecs ne cherchent nullement à empiéter sur le domaine des autres races, et leur attitude est purement défensive; mais l'élément Bulgare n'est pas animé des mêmes dispositions. Bien au contraire, il cherche par tous les moyens à s'étendre au détriment de l'élément Grec. Dans cette œuvre d'envahissement, il est vivement secondé par les Agents d'une Puissance qui a tout intérêt du Panslavisme. Il paraît même que ces derniers exercent une grande influence sur les autorités Ottomanes d'Andrinople et qu'ils parviennent très-souvent à les associer à leurs desseins.

En présence d'une telle situation la lutte devient inégale entre les Grecs et les Slaves, et l'Article XXIII du Congrès de Berlin court le risque de ne pas répondre à la pensée généreuse et humanitaire qui l'a dicté.

Il faudrait donc ou que l'élément Slave fût privé de l'appui extérieur qui le rend agressif, ou que l'élément Grec fût également appuyé de manière à pouvoir défendre les positions qu'on cherche à lui enlever.

Telle est l'attitude réciproque des Grecs et des Bulgares dans la Thrace et la Macédoine.

Tandis que les premiers cherchent à s'en tenir aux localités purement Grecques, les Bulgares font tout leur possible pour empiéter sur le domaine des autres nationalités, et notamment sur les pays Grecs. Les Grecs auraient pu soutenir la lutte si leurs adversaires étaient dépourvus de tout appui extérieur, mais tel n'étant pas le cas l'élément Grec court de grands dangers si une main protectrice ne lui était également tendue. Loin d'être animés d'un esprit d'exclusivisme, les Grecs désirent que les Bulgares participent aux bienfaits de la nouvelle organisation et marchent dans la voie du progrès d'une manière parallèle avec les autres races. Les Grecs, ainsi que nous venons de le dire, ne désirent que se prémunir contre toute atteinte à leurs droits historiques et ethnologiques.

C'est dans ce but que nous allons signaler les écueils que la Commission Européenne doit éviter en procédant à l'organisation des provinces sus-nommées.

Dans les principales villes de la Thrace et de la Macédoine l'élément Bulgare ne se trouvant pas en majorité, on a mis en avant l'idée d'abolir les divisions administratives en vigueur et de supprimer les sandjaks et les cazas, en ne laissant subsister que les nahiyés, c'est-à-dire, les petites circonscriptions communales.

De cette façon l'élément Bulgare, qui a la majorité dans les campagnes, réagirait sur les villes, et l'équilibre serait dérangé au detriment des autres races. Il faudra donc maintenir les divisions administratives existantes et toutes les fois qu'on sera obligé d'y déroger, faire en sorte que l'une des trois races ne prédomine pas sur les autres.

Partant de cet ordre d'idées on pourra diviser la Macédoine en Macédoine du Sud et Macédoine du Nord, en ayant soin d'éviter la prépondérance de l'un des deux éléments sur l'autre.

La première comprendrait tout le vilayet actuel de Salonique, à savoir, les Sandjaks de Drama, Serres, et Salonique, et le vilayet actuel de Monastir avec le Nahiyé de Myrilovo, de la Province de Prilapo, et les Provinces de Bitolia, Florini, Corytza, Colonia, Anassélitza, Kaliaria, Kozani, Servia, ainsi que la Province de Grévena.

La seconde sera formée du reste des provinces du Vilayet de Monastir et du Vilayet de Cossova, ou du Sandjak de Scopia.

Au moyen de cette division administrative, la Roumélie Orientale sera séparée de la Macédoine du Nord par le Vilayet de la Macédoine du Sud, qui y sera intercalé, et qui servira pour ainsi dire de barrière contre les projets envahisseurs des Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale.

Un autre point important qui doit attirer l'attention la plus sérieuse de la Commission Européenne, c'est l'usage de la langue Grecque qu'il faudra consacrer comme langue officielle concurremment avec la langue Turque.

En Thrace, c'est la langue Grecque qui est le plus généralement parlée et écrite à côté du Turc. Dans la Macédoine, bien qu'on y rencontre plusieurs idiomes, il n'y a que le Grec et le Turc qui soient en usage pour la correspondance administrative et

commerciale. Dans les autres idiomes, il est impossible de trouver des gens capables d'écrire, et, ce qui est un grand inconvénient, ces idiomes manquent de termes scientifiques, et ne sont pas suffisamment développés pour qu'on puisse s'en servir devant la justice. Ce que nous venons d'avancer est tellement vrai que dans la Roumélie Orientale, les Juges Bulgares emploient très-souvent dans leurs délibérations la langue Grecque pour pouvoir s'entendre. Une autre question très-importante c'est celle relative à la juridiction de l'Exarchat Bulgare. Il est de toute nécessité que la juridiction de l'Exarque soit circonscrite dans les limites de la Principauté Bulgare. Toute extension de son autorité sur les autres contrées serait une atteinte aux Canons de l'Eglise, et servirait des desseins politiques dont l'Europe a tout intérêt d'empêcher la réalisation.

On ne doit pas oublier que c'est par des révendications purement ecclésiastiques que les Bulgares ont commencé leur campagne, qui a abouti à des résultats auxquels l'idée religieuse avait servi de masque et de prétexte.

Tels sont à grands traits les points les plus importants qui doivent être l'objet de la constante sollicitude de la Commission Européenne, si elle veut créer un état de choses digne de la pensée élevée qui a inspiré les Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

La création de la Roumélie Orientale ne saurait répondre au but que les Puissances s'en étaient proposé si d'un côté elles ne tenaient pas la main à ce que le Réglement Organique de cette province ne fût continuellement violé, et, si de l'autre côté, elles ne procédaient à l'organisation de la Thrace et de la Macédoine de manière à tenir la balance égale entre les intérêts de différentes races, et surtout, des Grecs et des Slaves qui se trouvent actuellement en présence.

Pour éviter ce qui se passe actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale, où la majorité opprime les autres nationalités, il faudra écarter soigneusement tout ce qui pourrait favoriser les visées de prépondérance d'une race sur l'autre, et par une division administrative qui reposerait sur les besoins et les aspirations légitimes de chaque nationalité, constituer autant de barrières contre le débordement du Panslavisme.

Au point où en sont les choses, on ne saurait rester spectateur impassible de la lutte engagée entre les Grecs et les Bulgares. On aurait pu comprendre cette politique d'abstention si elle était suivie par toutes les Puissances. Mais ce n'est plus un mystère pour personne que les Bulgares ont des appuis extérieurs, et, dans ce cas, il faudrait neutraliser ces influences étrangères, si l'on veut que la lutte ne soit pas inégale. Cette mission incombe aux Agents des Puissances intéressées à faire prévaloir la pensée dominante du Congrès de Berlin.

Quant aux violations du Règlement Organique de la Roumélie Orientale dont nous venons de parler, voici les principales:

On n'emploie dans les fonctions publiques que des Bulgares, et surtout ceux qui sont affiliés aux Sociétés Secrètes. Ainsi, toute l'Administration se trouve entre les mains des Bulgares à l'exclusion des autres nationalités, contrairement aux Articles 21 et 24 du Statut Organique.

Ce même Statut prescrit que la langue Grecque doit être classée parmi les trois langues officielles du pays, et cependant on ne fait usage que de la langue Bulgare.

D'après l'Article 11 du même Statut, dans les subdivisions administratives, on devait prendre en considération les besoins locaux et la facilité des communications.

Au lieu de cela, on s'est attaché principalement à morceler les localités où la population Grecque était compacte.

On a voté dans le Budget des sommes considérables pour des écoles Bulgares, et une somme très-minime pour les écoles Grecques.

Dans la gendarmerie on n'a nullement respecté la règle de proportion entre les différentes nationalités prescrites par l'Article 177 du Statut Organique.

Les Tribunaux étant exclusivement composés des Bulgares, les Grecs qui y ont recours n'obtiennent jamais gain de cause, si leur adversaire est un Bulgare.

Les Bulgares jouissent de la plus grande impunité, si les victimes de leur agression sont des Grecs ou des Turcs.

On a eu souvent à enregistrer de pareils cas.

Il est à espérer que l'Europe voudra bien mettre un terme à cet état de choses.

No. 133.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 265.)

My Lord, *Athens, July* 31, 1880.

IT is impossible to obtain complete and accurate information in regard to the state of preparation of the Greek army at this moment. As regards numbers I learn from official sources that the present strength of the Greek army, including gendarmerie, amounts to 14,200 men. The class of 1856 is now about to be disbanded, and, if the Proclamation for mobilization is not immediately issued, which would have the effect of keeping them in the ranks, 3,000 trained soldiers will be lost.

The class of recruits born in 1859 is now coming in, and on paper will furnish 12,900 men. This class are reported as coming satisfactorily, but the actual number who can be counted upon for service is not calculated at more than 6,000 men.

If the whole male population liable for service were called out they would amount to 228,000 men, but a deduction of 100,000 would have to be made for those exempt from service for various reasons, absentees, &c., leaving a total of 128,000. Of these 128,000, 30,000 only have ever borne arms.

The Government count on 18,000 men as soon as the mobilization is complete. To these may be added 2,500 volunteers, upon whom no great reliance can be placed—20,500 in all.

The cavalry of the Greek army consists of one regiment composed of five squadrons, or 247 sabres in all. The Government have bought in Hungary 1,000 horses for the artillery, which have not yet arrived in Greece, and of course some months will be required to break them in and fit them for service.

The army is well supplied, or will be shortly, with munitions and weapons, but a great deal remains to be done before this country can place a properly-appointed army in the field in any degree capable of measuring itself with the Turkish forces already concentrated in Epirus and Thessaly.

The Turks are fortifying the principal military positions in those provinces, and are said to have 150 Krupp guns there. Considerable bodies of troops are arriving at Salonica.

I have been unable to obtain any reliable information in regard to the Greek artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 134.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Août,* 1880.

PARMI les questions du jour, celle de la rectification des frontières Turco-Helléniques nous préoccupe, comme vous le savez, au plus haut point.

La Sublime Porte désire en voir la terminaison, et sa pensée se manifeste dans la réponse que nous avons faite à la note collective des Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices.

Nous l'avons dit à la fin de cette réponse et nous le répétons, le meilleur moyen d'amener le résultat désiré, c'est de confier aux Chefs de Mission à Constantinople le soin de traiter et de s'entendre avec la Sublime Porte en vue d'arriver à une solution. Les questions de (détails) à résoudre sont si nombreuses et si intimement liées à la question principale qu'il est indispensable de les discuter toutes à la fois dans (notre capitale).

Veuillez insister sur ce point auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et tâcher d'obtenir son adhésion au mode indiqué afin d'éviter une divergence de nature à nous mettre en désaccord avec les vœux des Cabinets. Son Excellence n'aura pas de peine à apprécier le sentiment (de) conciliation qui nous dicte cette démarche.

No. 135.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 10 A.M.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 5, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

I HAVE given explanations to Prince Nicholas about necessity of my remaining here for the present.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 136.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 7, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 379.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs will send similar instructions to German Ambassador at Constantinople respecting equitable treatment of inhabitants in districts to be ceded to Montenegro.

No. 137.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 7, 1880, 1 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 264 on the danger to the Sultan and the Porte of resistance to the wish of Europe, I have on several occasions used language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs embodying much of what your Lordship instructs me to say; but, looking to the importance of its contents reaching the Sultan himself, would it be expedient for me to leave a copy of it with the Minister for Foreign Affairs?

I have not failed to urge some of the arguments to the Sultan himself. Still, a communication which he could read, embodying so clearly the views of your Lordship, would be of much service.

No. 138.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 4 P.M.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 7, 1880, 1·25 P.M.*

GERMAN Chargé d'Affaires, by order of his Government, has addressed a note to Greek Government inviting latter to send Agent to Munich to settle question of debt said to be due by Greece to Bavaria, the German Minister at Munich to act as arbitrator in the matter.

The Chargé d'Affaires added verbally that the German Government would make their support of Greece on the frontier question dependent upon the reception given to their proposal in regard to debt question.

No. 139.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 6·20 P.M.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 7, 1880, 3·40 P.M.*

M. TRICOUPI has received information that the Sultan is about to ask Emperor of Germany to arbitrate between Great Powers and Porte in regard to Greek frontier question.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 140.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 6·25 P.M.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 7, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

FRENCH Government make difficulties about selling to Greek Government 30,000 rifles which Minister for War agreed to furnish to latter.

M. Tricoupi fears that departure of French officers from France has been delayed.

No. 141.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 7 P.M.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1880, 5 P.M.*

GENERAL MILIUTINE has written to M. de Giers to say that he has consented to General Hamley's proposal about deferring the erection of the posts on the express understanding that the doing so will not imply the nomination of a second Commission to watch their erection. I conclude that General Hamley will himself take proper precautions that the line when marked out on the ground shall correspond with the line verified on the map.

No. 142.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 7 P.M.)

(No. 122. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1880, 6 P.M.*

THE German Government have asked the opinion of the Austrian Government upon proposal of Mr. Goschen that Janina should be excluded from territory to be ceded to Greece, and M. de Kallay has asked me very confidentially what I knew about it.

I said that I had heard nothing of any such proposal, and greatly doubted it having been made.

I thought it very probable that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople may have said to some of his colleagues that it would be difficult to get a pacific solution of the question as long as Janina was included in the cession to be made, and that this had been reported to Berlin and misunderstood.

I would beg that it may not be mentioned at Berlin that M. de Kallay had informed me of this communication.

No. 143.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7, 7·10 P.M.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

M. DE KALLAY observed to me to-day that although the Imperial Government had accepted your Lordship's proposal that the rejoinder to the Turkish note should be drafted by the French Government, it is to be hoped that this was the first intimation of an intention to send such a rejoinder at all.

It would be quite right to leave the initiative to the French, but the Powers ought to agree, first, whether it is necessary to send a rejoinder, and, secondly, upon its general features.

No. 144.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8, noon.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 8, 1880, 10·50 A.M.*

M. DE FREYCINET sends instructions at once by telegraph to French Ambassador at Constantinople in terms of your Lordship's telegram No. 360 to Mr. Goschen with

regard to mode of transfer by the Turks of ceded territories with reference to the Dulcigno proposal.

No. 145.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 241.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 16, 1880.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by his Government to unite with his German colleague in urging upon the Greek Government the importance of keeping quiet, and of taking no step which might lead to the adoption of aggressive measures by the Government of the Sultan towards this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 146.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 245. Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 17, 1880.*

I CALLED on M. Tricoupi to-day. He informed me that he had asked the King to accept the resignation of the Ministry. He had inferred from the King's silence that there was a difference of opinion between His Majesty and the Ministry on the question of mobilization.

They had meant the mobilization to be gradual. They did not wish to provoke Turkey, but only to be prepared for action when the moment for action arrived.

It was, no doubt, as Lord Lyons had said, for the Powers to point out the time for action, but it was the duty of the Government to take the necessary steps to avoid a catastrophe when the time for action had been indicated.

Both the King and the Ministry had acted after careful deliberation, and the divergence of opinion now suggested no other remedy than a change of Ministry.

This communication was made to me alone, and M. Tricoupi asked me to consider it secret and personal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 147.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 18, 1880.*

M. TRICOUPI tells me that he has received a telegram from the King to-day informing him that the Proclamation for the mobilization of the army has been signed, and authorizing him to publish it when he thinks proper to do so.

This will not, his Excellency says, take place without a previous intimation to the English and French Governments; but advantage will be taken of it by anticipation in order to retain in the army those experienced soldiers whose period of service is about to be completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 148.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 256.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 28, 1880.*

THE Cretans residing in Greece are divided into those who are in favour of annexation of their island to Greece and those who desire for it an autonomous Government similar to that which is enjoyed by the Island of Samos, under a Prince.

A deputation of the former waited on M. Tricoupi as soon as the collective note recommending a new frontier for Greece was published, to congratulate the Government on the acquisition of Epirus and Thessaly, and to express their hopes of the island being some day united to the Kingdom of Greece.

M. Tricoupi, in answer, recommended the Cretans to remain quiet, and not to be impatient for union with Greece.

He said that the Constitution under which they were living enabled them to live on satisfactory terms with their Mussulman fellow-subjects, and afforded them opportunity to develop the Hellenic element, which was not now persecuted; and they might hope, at some future day, to be as fortunate as the provinces now about to be united to the Kingdom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 149.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 259.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 28, 1880.*

M. TRICOUPI has asked me to inquire whether your Lordship has now any objection to the mobilization of the Greek army.

The other Great Powers, except Italy, which has made no communication on the subject, are no longer opposed to the step.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 150.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 28, 1880.*

THE information contained in my despatch No. 247 of the 18th instant, reporting the meeting of Turkish troops at Domoko, has not been confirmed.

The Greek Government have now received official information that several hundred soldiers had assembled at Larissa and threatened to plunder the inhabitants unless they received the pay due to them, and great consternation reigned in the town in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 151.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, giving an account of the insecurity of the town and of the inefficiency of the police.

I have called M. Zancoff's attention to the state of things described by Mr. Dalziel. His Excellency said that it was true that there was considerable difficulty in finding a person to undertake the duties of Governor of the town at the present salary, which had recently been reduced by a vote of the Chamber. His Excellency added that Rustchuk was a difficult place to govern, in consequence of the numbers of foreign subjects who were under the jurisdiction of their respective Consuls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 152.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 9.*)

(No. 117.) *Sophia, July 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE not failed to communicate to M. Zancoff the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 2 of the 21st instant, authorizing me to support the remonstrance of the Roumanian Agent against the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to recognize the right of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction.

His Excellency did not conceal his disappointment at the decision of Her Majesty's Government. He repeated the arguments which he had used to me, as reported in my despatch No. 113 of the 16th instant, with regard to the difference which, in his opinion, should be made between Bulgaria and the countries which were still under Ottoman rule. His Excellency went on to say that the Powers had evidently intended that Bulgaria should be independent, and had continually advised the development of the country. It would be impossible for the Principality to become independent if her hands were tied by the interference of Europe in any question that might arise with Roumania or Servia. So far from being independent, the Bulgarian Government would, in such cases, be forced to have recourse to one or another of the Great Powers, great opportunity would be given for intrigues, and it would be impossible that the country should develop itself properly.

I told M. Zancoff that it appeared to me that Bulgaria, having been created by the Treaty of Berlin, was bound to conform to the stipulations of that Treaty. According to Article VIII, the right of Consular jurisdiction remained in force so long as it shall not have been modified with the consent of the parties concerned. Article L gives the right of Consular jurisdiction to Roumania, and I could not therefore understand why the Bulgarian Government had not accepted the proposal which I understood had been made by the Roumanian Agent to settle the question by an arrangement between the two Governments.

M. Zancoff replied that he was anxious to come to an arrangement, but that the Roumanian Government insisted, as a preliminary condition, on the recognition of their right of Consular jurisdiction, and to this the Bulgarian Government could not agree. I observed that if the Bulgarian Government began by denying the rights which the Roumanian Government claimed under the Treaty, it would evidently make it very difficult for the latter to enter into negotiations with a view to giving them up.

In reply to a remark of M. Zancoff, that Europe always seemed to favour Roumania at the expense of Bulgaria, I said that I could assure him that there was no ill-will on the part of Her Majesty's Government towards Bulgaria, but that it was necessary that the Treaty of Berlin should be strictly carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 153.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 9.*)

(No. 118.) *Sophia, July 24, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which M. Zancoff has addressed to the foreign Representatives here on the subject of the treatment of Mussulmans in Bulgaria.

In referring to the notes which several of the foreign Agents had addressed to the Bulgarian Government in consequence of the complaints of the Porte, his Excellency states that the Ottoman Government had allowed itself to be influenced by reports which had been hastily drawn up and had not been fully examined, and had taken advantage, "perhaps involuntarily," of these reports to discredit the Government of the Principality.

M. Zancoff states that the complaints of the Porte are attributable to four causes:—

1. The existence of brigandage in the eastern portion of the Principality.
2. The expropriation of Mussulman property for purposes of general utility.
3. The difficulties experienced by the refugees in returning to their homes.
4. The difficulties experienced by Mussulmans in obtaining possession of their property.

With regard to brigandage, M. Zancoff recapitulates the steps taken by the Government to put an end to a state of things which weighs as heavily upon the Christian as upon the Mussulman population, and he accuses the Porte of encouraging the brigands.

With regard to the question of the property of Mussulmans, his Excellency points out that the Turks having left the country on the approach of the Russian army, their property was taken possession of by the Russian Administration.

On the return of the Turks it became necessary that the proprietors should establish their claim to the property, and his Excellency cites a case where seven individuals produced apparently authentic title-deeds for the same property. As soon as the claim is satisfactorily established the property is returned to the owner on the payment of the expenses for repairs which were made during his absence. The majority of cases are settled amicably, and if there are still any persons who complain, it is probably some Turkish Boy or influential person who attempts to regain possession of property which he had illegally obtained. The expropriation of property for purposes of public utility was a general measure affecting all the subjects of the Principality without distinction of religion. The Turks were to be paid according to the assessment ("emlenk") made by the Ottoman Administration upon which the land tax used to be levied. In the capital the Turkish proprietors are to receive the sums that have been realized by the sale of their property, with a deduction of 20 per cent. The Government had devoted the sum of 100,000 fr. for building houses for the Turks who returned to the Principality, and also provided for those who were in want of the means of existence.

M. Zancoff indignantly refutes the insinuations brought by the Porte against the Bulgarian Tribunals, and cites some cases in which the authorities had been punished for abuses committed against the Turks.

With regard to the question of the refugees, his Excellency refers to the measures which have been taken by the Government, in spite of the fact that the responsibility for all the difficulties which have taken place must fall upon the Turkish Government.

The note altogether may be looked upon as an attempt to throw the blame of the suffering of the Turks upon the Turkish Government.

In a conversation which I have had with M. Zancoff I told his Excellency that I should have been glad if, in sending your Lordship a copy of his note, I could have reported that the measures which it had been decided to take with regard to the property of the Turks in the capital had been carried out, but that although some time had elapsed since the promulgation of the Decree, I understood that it had not yet been put into execution. I said also that I had been informed that the assessment of real property which had been made under the Turkish Administration ("emleak") was notoriously far lower than the real value of the land, and that it therefore did not seem just to take it as the basis upon which the Mussulman proprietors were to be indemnified.

M. Zancoff replied that the delay which had taken place in the execution of the Decree was due to the change of the Municipality. A Commission had to be appointed, composed of five Turks and five members appointed by the Municipality, to decide upon the proportion in which the Mussulmans whose property had been destroyed in order to widen the streets and make improvements in the town should be indemnified. The new Municipality had not yet been installed, but he hoped that in a day or two they would enter upon their duties and appoint the members of the Commission. With regard to the "emleak," he observed that it was necessary to take some basis, and that the fairest seemed to be the assessment made by the Turkish Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 153.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le 19 Juillet, 1880.*

LE Gouvernement de Son Altesse, mon auguste Maître, depuis le commencement de son fonctionnement, s'est trouvé dans la pénible situation de devoir répondre à des observations faites par les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, à l'égard de sa conduite vis-à-vis de la population de religion Mahométane. Tout dernièrement plusieurs de MM. les Agents m'ont fait l'honneur de m'adresser des notes de la part du Gouvernement qu'ils représentent auprès de Son Altesse, qui, se basant sur des plaintes et des récriminations périodiques venant de la Sublime Porte, font retomber sur les autorités Bulgares une très-grave responsabilité pour des actes de criante injustice commis contre les

Musulmans; son Excellence Sawas Pacha ne craint même pas d'accuser les fonctionnaires Bulgares du délit de faux.

J'ai eu l'honneur, M. l'Agent, par ma Circulaire du 16 Avril dernier, de vous exprimer ma conviction que les demandes de la Sublime Porte se rapportaient à des faits qui n'avaient pas été suffisamment contrôlés. Un examen attentif des accusations et des incriminations lancés contre le Gouvernement Princier m'a donné la certitude que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman se laissait trop facilement influencer par des rapports rédigés précipitamment et sans un examen attentif des données sur lesquelles ils reposaient; il profite, peut-être involontairement, de pareils moyens pour discréditer et entraver par des difficultés la marche d'un Gouvernement dont le soin continuel est de remplir ses obligations internationales, et de se montrer digne de faire partie du concert des Etats Chrétiens et civilisés.

Les plaintes contenues dans les notes de la Sublime Porte, que quelques-uns des MM. les Agents ont eu la bonté de me transmettre, celles que des particuliers Mahométans ont fait parvenir à Son Altesse notre Prince ou aux autorités locales, proviennent des causes suivantes:—

1. De l'existence du brigandage dans la partie orientale de la principauté.

2. De l'expropriation de quelques immeubles Turcs pour l'élargissement des rues, des places, en général pour cause d'utilité publique.

3. Des difficultés que les réfugiés Turcs rencontrent en rentrant dans leurs foyers.

4. Des difficultés auxquelles la population de religion Mahométane vient se heurter pour la reprise de possession des immeubles lui appartenant.

Je passe sous silence les assertions sans fondement, comme celle, par exemple, insinuant que les Tribunaux Bulgares n'acceptent pas le témoignage des Mahométans, parce que, n'étant pas appuyés par un seul et unique fait, elles ne sont que des calomnies insidieuses, et je crois qu'elles ne sauraient atteindre le Gouvernement Bulgare, qui a la conscience de la légalité de ses actes.

Je ne veux pas vous entretenir en détail ici, M. l'Agent, des motifs qui ont amené le brigandage dans la partie orientale de la principauté. Je me contenterai de vous dire qu'il a été une des plus grandes difficultés de notre organisation intérieure. Le Gouvernement Princier, pour pouvoir répondre à ses devoirs, s'est vu dans la nécessité de prendre des mesures extraordinaires et de proclamer l'état de siège. Il va sans dire que ces mesures pesaient lourdement sur la population, mais ce ne sont pas seulement les Mahométans, c'est surtout les Chrétiens qui en souffraient.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse a fait les plus grands efforts pour effectuer l'apaisement de ces provinces en mettant le moins d'entraves possibles pour la population; les mesures rigoureuses ont été révoquées ou adoucies, et toute l'œuvre de la pacification a été confiée au Ministre de la Guerre de Son Altesse, M. le Général Ehrnrooth.

Je ne veux cependant pas vous cacher, M. l'Agent, qu'il existera chez nous des causes de plaintes de la part de la population Chrétienne aussi bien que Musulmane, tant que le brigandage subsistera dans une grande partie de la principauté; je me vois à regret dans la nécessité d'avouer, que la conduite de la Sublime Porte n'a pas été à cet égard conforme aux usages internationaux et aux devoirs qu'imposent les relations de bon voisinage. L'hiver dernier même, l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople a été témoin de la manière dont on enrôlait dans des cafés et des lieux publics des gens sans aveu qui se chargeaient de propager au printemps le brigandage en Bulgarie. Les brigands étaient transportés sur des navires pourvus de munitions et débarqués sur les rives de la Roumélie Orientale ou de la principauté. L'événement de Bélibé, près d'Aïdos, qui a fait tant de bruit et causé tant d'embarras au Gouvernement Princier, n'avait été prédit par l'Agence Bulgare de Constantinople dix jours à l'avance avec les noms des meneurs de ce soulèvement.

Malgré toutes les représentations que l'Agence Bulgare a faites à la Sublime Porte dans le but de mettre un frein à l'organisation de ce brigandage à Constantinople, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman les accueille avec indifférence, laisse rentrer avec impunité les brigands dans les provinces de l'Empire et dans Constantinople même, involontairement, j'aime à le croire, mais cela rend impossible le rétablissement de l'ordre dans la principauté.

Un autre prétexte, très-populaire, de récriminations contre le Gouvernement Princier a été le prétendu mépris des droits de propriété des Mahométans. La Sublime Porte dans ces notes a fait comprendre que les élargissements et les embellissements de la capitale et des autres villes de la principauté ont été faits aux dépens des propriétés Mahométanes, et on a dépeint sous un jour bien triste, on fait un tableau bien sombre, des difficultés que les Tribunaux Bulgares font aux propriétaires Mahométans.

Vous n'ignorez pas sans doute, M. l'Agent, qu'à l'approche de l'armée victorieuse Russe, les Mahométans, suivant les ordres de leurs autorités, paraît-il, s'enfuirent vers Constantinople. L'Administration Russe prit en mains leurs biens et chacun de ceux qui revenaient devait démontrer ses droits par des documents ou par des preuves certaines, pour pouvoir en prendre possession. C'étaient les Tribunaux ordinaires qui statuaient sur les demandes. Pour faciliter l'entrée en jouissance des ayants droit, le Gouvernement Princier a formé des Commissions Spéciales qui décidaient les questions sur la propriété Turque. Nous avons en mains des données statistiques pour prouver quels fruits bienfaisants ces Commissions ont produits. D'autre part on ne pouvait se passer de toute garantie, cela est évident, et vous en jugerez, M. l'Agent, lorsque je vous dirai qu'à Tirnova sept personnes de la religion Mahométane, des réfugiés rentrés, ont montré des documents authentiques émanant de la même autorité et prouvant leur droit illimité et indivisible sur le même et unique terrain. Maintenant ce sont les Tribunaux ordinaires qui décident au sujet de toutes les contestations sur le droit de propriété, et cela d'après les règles de la procédure civile ordinaire qui est de droit commun pour tous les pays. Les propriétés des réfugiés Musulmans leur sont rendues dès qu'ils présentent des documents et titres de propriété et payent aux locataires les frais des réparations faites. On a profité de cette dernière disposition pour faire entendre que la reconnaissance du droit de propriété est illusoire. Je n'hésite pas, M. l'Agent, à mettre aussi cette explication dans la série des calomnies lancées contres les Bulgares, car je ne connais pas une législation où il n'y ait une pareille prévision. Et la majorité des cas de cette nature se décident à l'amiable, sans avoir recours aux Tribunaux. Si à cet égard il y a des mécontents, la raison en est toute autre. C'est que beaucoup de Beys, de personnes influentes possédant des fermes (Tchiftliks) près de quelques villages, se sont appropriés des terrains au détriment de leurs voisins. Or, ces cas ayant une origine illégale, n'ayant aucun titre pour les appuyer, ne pouvant pas alléguer la prescription, et la bonne foi y manquant, ils ne peuvent pas être pris en considération par les Tribunaux.

Relativement aux biens expropriés par les autorités locales pour cause d'utilité publique, je ne crois pas nécessaire de vous le dire, M. l'Agent, que c'est une mesure de la législation générale qui frappe tous les sujets de la principauté sans distinction de religion.

Pour les terres des réfugiés Mahométans qui ont été prises pendant leur absence, le Gouvernement Princier a décidé de leur en payer la valeur d'après les estimations qui avaient été faites par l'Administration Ottomane des Biens Immeubles ("Emleak"), si les propriétaires ne préfèrent pas de prendre un autre terrain en échange, ou bien ils peuvent s'adresser aux Tribunaux. Quant aux immeubles expropriés dans la capitale, je tiens à vous faire remarquer, M. l'Agent, que toutes les propriétés vendues pour exécuter le plan seront payées à leurs anciens propriétaires, non pas au prix fixé par l'évaluation de la Commission Spéciale, mais bien à celui plus élevé auquel les ventes ont été effectuées en en retirant 20 pour cent, conformément à l'Ukase du Commissaire Impérial Russe, pour les dépenses d'amélioration faites par la Municipalité. Cette mesure, vous le voyez, M. l'Agent, n'est pas seulement équitable, mais aussi extrêmement généreuse, car elle s'écarte du prix d'évaluation et donne un bénéfice aux propriétaires. En outre de toutes ces mesures qui ont eu pour but exclusif le bien de la population Mahométane, le Gouvernement Princier a décidé de faire payer par le Trésor la somme de 100,000 fr. pour préparer des maisons aux Turcs qui rentrent dans leurs foyers. Vous n'ignorez pas, du reste, que le Gouvernement Princier pourvoit aux besoins de tous ceux auxquels des moyens de subsistance sont nécessaires. Je ne saurais pas vous dire, M. l'Agent, jusqu'à quel point le Gouvernement Princier a été peiné des insinuations lancées par la Sublime Porte et des plaintes indéfinies et générales de quelques particuliers contre nos Tribunaux. La nation Bulgare connaît trop bien que c'est l'injustice et la corruption judiciaires qui ont amené à son état actuel l'Empire Ottoman, et elle est beaucoup trop jalouse de son avenir pour pouvoir tolérer l'injustice et la partialité. Si on a un reproche à faire à nos Juges, c'est plutôt celui d'être très-sévères, trop sévères pour nous-mêmes, et très-indulgents pour nos concitoyens les Mahométans. Je me permets seulement de rappeler à votre mémoire qu'à Silistrie, pour quelques cas d'abus commis contre les Turcs avant qu'il y eût eu une plainte portée par les parties intéressées, un chef Préfet a été destitué et mis en accusation, et deux chefs de police condamnés aux travaux forcés. Parmi les nombreux faits de ce genre, je me permets de vous citer aussi le cas du particulier Sulémanu Aurifoff, de Kustendil, contre lequel les habitants de deux villages avaient présenté des réclamations; la demande ayant été reconnue injuste, elle a été rejetée et les chefs des deux villages punis d'un mois de prison pour avoir molesté un citoyen paisible.

Vous conviendrez, M. l'Agent, que c'est une justice bien différente de celle à laquelle étaient habitués les Bulgares par leurs ci-devants maîtres, et je n'hésite pas à affirmer qu'on

trouvera difficilement un Musulman, qui, avec bonne foi, s'est adressé aux Tribunaux Bulgares, n'ait à s'en louer.

Quant à la question des réfugiés je ne vous fatiguerai pas, M. l'Agent, par un long récit, car vous connaissez très-bien toutes les péripéties de cette question. Malgré que la responsabilité pour toutes les difficultés retombât sur le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, mettant de côté les intérêts individuels de la principauté, a admis tous les réfugiés qui professaient être des natifs de la Bulgarie. De plus, tout dernièrement une Commission a été formée; elle se compose de trois de nos plus hauts fonctionnaires: le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale, les Gouverneurs de Varna et de Sophia. Le but de cette Commission est d'aller sur les lieux pour y installer les réfugiés, et la somme de 100,000 fr. a été mis à sa disposition.

Toutes ces mesures, M. l'Agent, prises par un Gouvernement qui a à peine une année d'existence, qui a eu à peine le temps de s'occuper de l'organisation d'un pays qui, après des siècles, pour la première fois est appelé à la vie politique, démontrent évidemment que l'esprit de progrès et les sentiments de justice et d'humanité sont ses bases.

Ces efforts, me semble-t-il, devraient inspirer plus de confiance aux Gouvernements des Puissances garantes. J'ose espérer, M. l'Agent, que ces explications de ma part mettront fin à la pénible question Mahométane en Bulgarie—question qui est d'un caractère purement intérieure, et si votre Gouvernement, dans la bienveillance qu'il a toujours témoignée envers la Bulgarie, voulait bien employer son influence afin que les conseils de justice et de conciliation prennent le dessus avec les hommes d'Etat de la Sublime Porte, je suis sûr que toute cause de plainte cesserait, et nous serions en état de mettre entièrement à exécution les hautes et généreuses intentions qui animent notre auguste Prince envers tous ses sujets.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANCOFF.

No. 154.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 26, 1880.*

IN consequence of the promulgation of the Decree relative to the measures to be taken with regard to property belonging to Mussulmans, all the members of the Municipality of Sophia resigned their posts. Fresh elections have now taken place, and the result has been that three members of the late Bulgarian Government have seats in the Municipal Council; M. Iconomoff, the late Minister of the Interior, has been elected mayor, and Messrs. Natchovitz and Grecoff, the late Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Justice, have been elected Councillors.

The presence of these gentlemen in the Municipal Council encourages the hope that the proceedings of that body will be conducted in a spirit of justice, more especially as regards the Mussulman owners of property in the capital, which has hitherto been far from being the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 155.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in reply to a telegram which I received from his Excellency on the subject of the reported pillage of Billova by Bulgarian militiamen, who were said to have killed many of the inhabitants and carried off upwards of 200 women and children to certain villages in the district of Pravadi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Mr. Lascelles to Mr. Goschen.

Sophia, July 26, 1880.

Sir,

ON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 21st instant I inquired of M. Zancoff what foundation there was for the reports that had reached the Porte respecting the pillage of Billova, where it was said that many of the inhabitants had been killed by Bulgarian militiamen, who had carried off upwards of 200 women and children to certain villages in the district of Pravadi.

M. Zancoff assured me that nothing of a similar nature had occurred in Bulgaria since the affair near Aidos. He presumed that the complaints which the Porte had made to your Excellency must refer to that affair, more especially as the places mentioned were in the neighbourhood of Aidos. He believed that Billova was another name for Belibé, which was one of the villages that had been burnt.

I had the honour to communicate the substance of this despatch to your Excellency by my telegram of the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 156.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Sophia, July 27, 1880.*

MR. DALZIEL, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, has given me an account of a visit which he had paid to the fortress of Levan-Tabia, from which it appears that the permanent part of the fortifications have not been destroyed, and that the same is the case with the fortifications at Shumla.

Mr. Dalziel has also called my attention to the formation of a corps of volunteers at Tirnova, in which from 350 to 400 men had been enrolled, and that it was intended to fill up to 4,000 if possible. Mr. Dalziel has added that this band had proceeded to Shumla, where it had been augmented to about 500, and was, he had been informed, on the march for Slivno.

I have called M. Zancoff's attention to both these matters.

With regard to the fortresses, his Excellency said that the Bulgarian Government had been unable, from want of money, to proceed with the work of demolition. The Minister of War was, however, now in a position to continue the work, but he experienced some difficulty in finding engineers who would undertake it. The fortress of Levan-Tabia was at present used as a store-house for dynamite and gunpowder.

With regard to the enlistment of volunteers, his Excellency said that last year a voluntary Association was formed, which partook of the nature of the Rifle Associations which existed in other countries. Tirnova was a central place, and his Excellency thought it possible that from 300 to 400 young men might have assembled there. It was a perfectly voluntary Association, and there was nothing in the nature of enlistment on the part of the Government. He said that the idea of the members being augmented to 4,000 was ludicrous. The Government was not aware of any of the members of this Association having gone from Tirnova to Shumla, and he did not believe in any intention on their part to go to Slivno.

As Mr. Dalziel informs me that he has sent two copies of his despatches to me of the 3rd, 7th, and 9th instant to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, I presume that one copy of each has already reached your Lordship's Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received a further despatch from Mr. Dalziel, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, on the subject of the movement of the volunteers and the arrival at Rustchuk of arms and ammunition. I shall not fail to make further inquiries of M. Zancoff and in other quarters with regard to this information, which I forward at once to your Lordship by the Austrian messenger who leaves Sophia this evening.

F. C. L.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Acting Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, July 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in continuation of previous despatches, that a person in whom I have confidence went lately to Tirnova, and writes that at "Bela" he met an agent for the enrolment of volunteers, with whom he had a long conversation, from which it transpired that he was commissioned from Eastern Roumelia, with the consent, or at best without any opposition from the Government of Bulgaria, to make the enrolments.

Up till the other day the number of volunteers who have passed through Tirnova, going south, amount to over 1,000, and I believe these are quite different from those who have been passing Shumla.

Besides the volunteers, I am informed that at Tirnova there is a continual passage of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers going towards Slivno.

The "Opit," towing a lighter, arrived on the 21st from Reni, with about 200 non-commissioned officers and a full cargo of ammunition; of the latter about 1,600 boxes were landed, and a considerable quantity were transferred to the "Golupchik;" the lighter was loaded with rifles, and on the 23rd both left for Widdin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 157.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 344.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 2, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE was absent from Berlin when I received your Lordship's telegram of last night, but I wrote a private line to his Highness, and explained, with reference to my despatch No. 339 of the 31st ultimo, that Her Majesty's Government thought it better to go on with the collective note to which the Powers had already given their assent, and which only contemplates a naval demonstration at Dulcigno in the event of the Porte declaring its continued adherence to the April Convention, and not carrying it out in three weeks.

The German Ambassador at Constantinople was instructed some days ago to sign the collective note in concert with his colleagues, and has in all probability already done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 158.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 6, 1880.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of last night, I called on Prince Hohenlohe, and told his Highness that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to concert and agree with his colleagues as to the precise conditions of the mode of transfer by the Turks of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro, so that the civil authorities and military force should not retire from the positions to be ceded until those of the Montenegrins are on the spot to replace them.

Prince Hohenlohe took note of your Lordship's instructions, and said he would send similar ones to Count Hatzfeldt at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 159.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 349.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 6, 1880.*

I HAVE mentioned to Prince Hohenlohe your Lordship's suggestion to ask the French Government to draw up the reply to the Porte's last note respecting the Berlin Award, and his Highness assured me that he entirely concurred in your Lordship's proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 160.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 350. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 6, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE asked me to-day incidentally what I thought of Mr. Goschen's new proposal in regard to the Greek frontier.

I replied that I was not acquainted with it.

Prince Hohenlohe said that he heard from Constantinople that Mr. Goschen inclined towards the Turkish view of the Berlin Award, and had recommended Her Majesty's Government to reconsider it, and come to a compromise with Turkey by letting her retain Janina.

I replied that to set aside the Berlin Award would be a symptom of weakness on the part of the Powers, which the Porte would take advantage of to resist the will of Europe in every other measure of reform recommended to their acceptance.

Prince Hohenlohe said he agreed, but that he understood Mr. Goschen to have the support of Count Corti, and that he should not be surprised if France and Austria, in their anxiety to avoid the employment of force, came round to Mr. Goschen's views and recommended concessions in preference to a conflict with Turkey.

I replied that the idea was new to me, and that not having heard from your Lordship on the subject, I could only express my private opinion that a show of weakness would be fatal to the future influence of the European concert in Turkey.

Prince Hohenlohe observed that he was likewise unacquainted with Prince Bismarck's opinion of Mr. Goschen's advice, and could only speak as a private individual about it. His impression was that, after the unexpected timidity exhibited by the French Government, which he attributed to fear of the influence of the French press, it was not at all unlikely that they would back out of the European concert and seek popularity in a policy of strict non-intervention. Did I, his Highness asked, think that Her Majesty's Government would care to proceed with their Eastern policy without France?

I replied that, much as Her Majesty's Government would deplore the retirement of France from the European concert, now so happily established, it was my firm conviction that they would continue to act with Germany, Austria, Italy, and Russia in the great work of reform they had undertaken in Eastern Europe.

Prince Hohenlohe said that England would no doubt reckon with certainty on the continued co-operation of Russia, but was Her Majesty's Government sure of Austria and Italy?

I replied that if England continued steadily to carry out her Eastern policy with Russia, Austria could not possibly become neutral like France, and merely look on while Turkey was being reformed and saved from internal collapse. Italy was only too happy to play the part of a Great Power in company with England and Russia, and to share their influence in the East, and I thought his Highness would agree with me in thinking that Germany was too great a Power to withhold her moral support from the combined efforts of England, Russia, Austria, and Italy to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. It would then be seen whether France could afford to remain long out in the cold and allow her influence in the East to be superseded by that of the rest of Europe.

Prince Hohenlohe said he could not deny the truth of my observations, but that an impression prevailed in Turkey that public opinion in England would not sanction the employment of force, that without force the Porte could not be made to yield to the will of Europe, and that prolonged resistance would break up the European concert, which would shrink from going to war with Turkey for Greece. In his opinion, the Porte was

yielding in regard to Montenegro so as to gather greater powers of resistance in regard to Greece.

Personally, he agreed with the Porte in thinking that some Powers would shrink from war with Turkey for Greece, and would, therefore, gladly accept Mr. Goschen's compromise in regard to Janina.

I said that, in my opinion, if the Powers adhered to the unanimity of purpose achieved at Berlin, the Porte must in the end yield to the patient and persuasive pressure of united diplomacy, but that if impatience prevailed and concessions were proposed, very grave consequences would result from a defeat of Europe by the Porte.

Prince Hohenlohe then begged that I would consider what he had said as private and personal, and we turned to other subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 161.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 352.) *Berlin, August 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE German Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated your Lordship's instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the provisions to be made for the equitable treatment of Catholics and Mussulmans in the districts to be ceded to Montenegro under Articles XXVII and XXX of the Treaty of Berlin, told me that similar instructions would be sent to the German Ambassador at Constantinople to-night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 442.) *Vienna, August 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I LAST night received your Lordship's telegram repeating one from Lord Odo Russell stating that he was told by Prince Hohenlohe that the Austro-Hungarian and French Governments had asked Germany to agree to the note respecting Montenegro, which was confidentially asked for by the Porte, and was recommended by the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

As I was convinced of there being some misunderstanding, I informed your Lordship by telegraph of what I believed to be the explanation of it, and I have since ascertained it to be correct.

When I called upon Baron Haymerle on Friday last he had told me that the Turkish Ambassador had been asked to send an answer stating whether he accepted or rejected the frontier proposed in the Porte's note of the 15th ultimo, and he had told Edhem Pasha that he would direct M. Kosjek to reply that it could not be entertained.

He had just informed the French and German Ambassadors of his intention to send these instructions, but while he was speaking to me it suddenly struck him that the collective note already agreed upon would be the official answer to the note of the 15th, and that no other was required.

He immediately desired a message to be sent to the French and German Ambassadors to point this out to them, and to say that instead of instructing the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to send in the written answer he had proposed, he would only desire him to inform the Porte of the language he had held to Edhem Pasha.

M. Duchatel and Prince Reuss had, however, sent off their telegrams to their Governments, reporting their conversation with Baron Haymerle, before his Excellency's message reached them, and thence arose the misunderstanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 163.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 443.) *Vienna, August 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from Mr. Gosling upon the present tone of the press in Hungary towards England; and I cannot do so without adding that the Austrian papers are not less outspoken in their criticism of the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

None of the Austrian newspapers are singly of such importance as to allow of their articles being taken as a trustworthy expression of public opinion, but when those of every shade of politics and of every political party are found holding the same language, they must be supposed to represent the sense of the nation, and it would not be pardonable in me, merely because the duty is unpleasant, to conceal from your Lordship that the feeling exhibited by them at present is one of very decided hostility to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, which is regarded as likely to disturb the peace of Europe, that is more necessary for Austria than probably for any other country.

The change that has taken place in the public feeling towards England has been particularly striking within the last few days since the news of General Burrows' defeat.

During the earlier part of the Afghan campaign, and during the Zulu war, there was a pretty general expression of goodwill towards us and of wishes for our success, while now the news of this last disaster has been hailed with evident, if unexpressed, satisfaction by some of the papers and with open exultation by others, some of the most important of which exclaimed with glee that "Afghanistan might yet save us from another Navarino."

With the affairs of the East in such a state that it is impossible to foresee the complications that may arise out of them, it is essential that Her Majesty's Government should be kept fully acquainted with the temper of the different nations with whom they are acting, and I have therefore felt it my duty to state plainly to your Lordship what I believe to be that of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Mr. Gosling to Sir H. Elliot.

Buda-Pesth, July 31, 1880.

Sir,

THE press of this capital, and indeed of the entire country, entertains very pessimist views in respect to Eastern affairs. It alleges that South-eastern Europe is rapidly drifting into complications which the arbitrament of the sword alone can dispel; and both the German and Hungarian journals of Buda-Pesth are unanimous in taxing Her Majesty's Government with accelerating the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire; a political convulsion whose accomplishment must entail an amount of bloodshed and human misery unparalleled in recent history.

The "Pester Lloyd," which, as your Excellency is aware, is to some extent "inspired," has for some weeks past devoted articles to opprobrious criticism of Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy, at the same time warning the public against reposing confidence in any thing so purely chimerical as European concert. On the other hand, this and most other journals attach the greatest weight to the *rapprochement* which has been arrived at between Austria, Hungary, and Germany, and the wisdom of this alliance is as reverently alluded to as though its creation had been due to divine inspiration.

The employment by the Porte of German officers and financiers is taken to be indicative of Prince Bismarck's resolve not merely to watch and ultimately to check Muscovite influence and intrigue in Turkey, but to demonstrate to both England and France that when the "sick man" shall have passed away the Teutonic element shall be well represented at the opening of the will!

Taking their tone from the press, public men when conversing with me seldom miss an opportunity of re-echoing the strictures so indiscriminately passed by their journals on the foreign policy of Her Majesty's Government. It would exceed presumption on my part were I for one moment to admit that my advocacy of that policy were needed; still is disinclination on my side to challenge the false reasoning of these gentlemen might be

misconstrued, I have felt it my duty invariably to hold language which I venture to believe will meet with your Excellency's approval.

In the first place, I have emphatically refuted any desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government tending to the disruption of the Ottoman Empire; that, on the contrary, in the settlement of the just claims of Greece and Montenegro, they perceived the sole means perhaps of averting troubles which might hasten so undesirable an end. That Great Britain's solicitude extended equally to the Christian and Mussulman subjects of the Porte, and that the just indignation of England was directed not against the Osmanlis, but against the misrule, corruption, and wilful apathy of Ottoman Governments, which for centuries had paralyzed the energies and crushed the legitimate aspirations of every race brought under their baneful influence. I ventured confidently to assert, beyond denial, that Her Majesty's Government, in contradistinction, perhaps, to that of Russia, would hail with unalloyed satisfaction practical evidence of a determination on Turkey's part to redeem her oft-repeated promises of administrative reform; the tangible performance of which could, however, alone secure to her the good-will and respect of England. In fine, that far from desiring to light the torch of war, Her Majesty's Government's every energy was being strained to avert that catastrophe by the establishment of European concert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUDLEY GOSLING.

No. 164.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 445.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 2, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH there have been frequent reports of conflicts between the Albanians and Montenegrins during the last few days, they are not confirmed by the telegrams just received by the Austrian Government from Cettinjé.

Their Minister there reports on the contrary that everything is now quiet on the frontier, there having been no fighting since the 23rd, when the Montenegrins attacked an Albanian village; and the departure of the whole of the Mirdites for their homes was regarded as a satisfactory incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 165.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 447. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 4, 1880.*

UPON speaking to Baron Haymerle of what the East Roumelian Commission would have to do with respect to Albania, he said that Lord E. Fitzmaurice appeared anxious to obtain a decision of the Commission which, in his Excellency's own opinion, would be beyond its attributions.

He did not consider that the Commission had any power to fix the limits of the vilayets, but he would not absolutely reject a proposal that it should express an opinion about them.

He had no decided opinion against the creation of a large Albania, provided the interests of the varying populations of the different parts of it were duly protected, but he greatly suspected the advocacy of such a measure by the Russian Commissioner of being prompted by a desire to arrive at the establishment of a counterbalancing large Bulgarian vilayet.

To this he would have a decided objection.

If the populations were so distinctly divided as to make it possible to have vilayets where all were of the same race, the matter would be simple enough; but the different nationalities are so dovetailed together that, by endeavouring to divide the provinces as one or the other of the races appeared to predominate, there would in every case be left a helpless minority which would inevitably be tyrannized over by the majority.

It would therefore be safer to have vilayets where the races might be sufficiently equally balanced to insure for all a fair share of influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 166.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 449.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 4, 1880.*

THE confidential assurance given by the Porte of its intention to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement ought not, in Baron Haymerle's opinion, to cause the abandonment of the projected naval demonstration.

He thinks that it ought to be carried into effect if Montenegro is not put properly in possession of the new territory within three weeks; for although by the collective note that term was to be allowed to the Porte to execute the Convention of April, it must equally be granted for the carrying out of the plan substituted for it, and every Government must rejoice if the necessity for the demonstration never occurs.

The Porte must not, he says, be allowed to repeat the tactics followed in regard to the April arrangement, and must be warned that it will be expected to hand over the territory to be ceded to Montenegro in due form, and also to perform as far as possible the duty of a neighbouring State in preventing its subjects from attacking other parts of the Principality, and especially the position of Podgoritza.

The Prince of Montenegro must also on his side be efficiently prepared to take possession of his new territories, and he must not attempt to throw upon the Powers anything that he may be able, with proper exertion, to accomplish for himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 167.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 451. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 4, 1880.*

AS Baron Haymerle leaves Vienna this evening for the seaside, and will be absent some weeks, I thought it right to endeavour to ascertain from him the course which he thought should be followed with respect to the Greek frontier question in the face of a rejection by the Porte of the Award of the Conference.

He said that I knew already the manner in which he had regarded this question.

He had wished as great an extension to be given to Greece as could be obtained for her without a disturbance of the public peace, but the maintenance of peace was in his eyes the most important consideration, and he would not have wished to endanger it by demanding from Turkey a greater sacrifice than there was reason to expect her to consent to.

The French Government had induced the Government of Her Majesty to propose to the other Powers a much greater extension of the Greek Kingdom than he would himself have thought it prudent to require, but after it had been conceived between England and France he could not have refused to support it without opening himself to the reproach of an act of "lèse-concorde" which he was not willing to incur.

He had consequently supported the Anglo-French proposal, which was unanimously adopted by the Conference; and though it is rejected by the Porte our object must still be to prevent that rejection from leading to a disturbance of peace, but we must at the same time avoid accepting from Turkey a rebuff to the united Governments of Europe.

These two objects can, in his opinion, only be attained by an abstinence from all precipitate action tending to bring matters to extremities.

According to all accounts, the Greeks could not be prepared with an army capable of taking possession of the new territory in less than three or four months, even if the Turkish Government resolved not to oppose their entry. There is therefore no occasion for hurry; and in the meantime every effort should be made to induce the Turkish Government to listen to reason, and to allow them to become weary of keeping up large forces to repel the attack that they expect to be made on their country.

He would be opposed to any strong declarations being at present made to the Porte tending to commit the Powers to further action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 452. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 4, 1880.

My Lord,

THE course of the French Government upon the Montenegrin and Greek frontier questions greatly perplexes Baron Haymerle, who professes himself quite unable to form an opinion as to what they wish.

They began by proposing to the other Powers a new frontier for Greece so extended that the prospect of its quiet acceptance by the Turkish Government was very remote, and next, after bargaining that the demonstration to be made for securing the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier should also be applied to Greece if necessary, they proposed to restrict it by an engagement that under under no circumstances was a shot to be fired, so as to render it as nearly as possible illusory.

Baron Haymerle says that he asks himself whether all this indicates a change in the policy of the French Government, or whether it is merely the result of the pressure of the public opinion of the country, which is pronouncing itself against measures likely to involve it in entanglements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 169.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 23. Political.)
6, *Albemarle Street, London, W., August* 9, 1880.

My Lord,

IN compliance with despatch No. 25 of the 6th instant from your Lordship, I have the honour to make the following remarks on the petition therein inclosed, namely, that from certain inhabitants of Janina addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

As to the alleged concentration of bands of Albanian irregulars in the Province of Janina, when on the spot I made particular inquiries as to the truth of this statement. According to the statement of the more respectable Christian inhabitants, the only Albanians brought into the province up to that time were some 300 or 400 recruits who were posted in the Zagori district for the purpose of putting down brigandage and in substitution for regular troops recalled to Janina.

The statement "A peine ces bandes sont sorties de la ville que les meurtres et les spoliations commencèrent à être à l'ordre du jour" is an exaggeration. There has been and still is much brigandage (in which the Christian inhabitants take their full share), but beyond this, though I was in daily conversation with men naturally eager to display the worst side of the Turkish administration, I heard no complaints which would justify the use of the expression above quoted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 170.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August* 9.)

Constantinople, le 29 Juillet, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

IL résulte d'un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale que les autorités Bulgares ont dernièrement tenté d'occuper les villages de Bebfova, de Djafer, et d'Aivadjik, situés sur la ligne de démarcation, qu'elles considèrent comme devant faire partie de la Principauté. Des Musulmans au nombre de 200 environ, ayant voulu les en empêcher, les miliciens Bulgares appelant d'autres forces à leur aide, les ont repoussés et ont incendié quatre de leurs villages.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, je vous prie de vouloir bien le signaler à la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 171.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August* 9.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 7 Août, 1880.

UN convoi de 420 émigrés, arrivé à Palaka le 26 Juin, s'était campé à une heure et demie de distance de la ligne de démarcation, lorsque vers la tombée de la nuit deux hommes armés apparaissaient et les sommaient de livrer leurs chevaux. Les émigrés s'y étant refusés, les agresseurs Bulgares se retirèrent pour reparaître bientôt au nombre de 80, tous armés de fusils, de revolvers, et de yatagans. Le campement fut cerné et livré au pillage. Au commencement les émigrés se tinrent calmes, mais lorsqu'ils virent les assaillants se jeter sur leurs femmes ils se révoltèrent et résistèrent autant qu'il leur était possible.

Les Bulgares se mirent alors à faire feu. Les émigrés eurent dix morts et treize blessés. Ils furent complètement dépouillés: on leur enleva douze chevaux et six bœufs.

Ces faits, qui sont de notoriété publique, se passent de tout commentaire. Nous laissons aux sentiments d'humanité des Cabinets le soin de faire empêcher le renouvellement de pareils actes révoltants.

No. 172.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 9, 5·35 A.M.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, August 8, 1880, *midnight.*

IT has been hinted to me on good authority that there is a possibility of the Russian Government preferring the annexation of Crete to Greece as an alternative to the cession of territory suggested by the late Conference at Berlin. It is certain, as I have already reported, that M. de Giers begins to see great difficulty in carrying out the new frontier arrangement, but it is probable that the alternative mentioned has not yet assumed in his mind the character of a serious project.

No. 173.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 420.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 9, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Government have proposed that the Powers should make provision for equitable treatment of Catholic and Mussulman inhabitants in the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, and should inform the Porte of their intention. I have said that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to join the other Powers in any representations to Montenegro or assurances to the Porte that might be considered necessary.

Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople will be instructed to consult with his colleagues as to form of communication to the Porte. When arranged, Austrian Consul-General at Scutari will be informed in order that the fact may be made known there.

Articles XXVII and XXX of the Treaty of Berlin seem to cover the question.

No. 174.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 371.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 9, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's No. 122, your attention is particularly called to his request that the fact of M. de Kallay having informed him of the communication from German Government should not be mentioned.

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* Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 364).

No. 175.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 374.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1880, 6 P.M.

YOURS No. 163.

You will find views of Her Majesty's Government respecting naval demonstration in telegrams 119 from, and 425 to, Elliot, repeated to you on the 5th August.

No. 176.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 375.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

YOURS No. 164.

You may communicate my despatch No. 264 to the Sultan.

No. 177.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 484.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 125.

If M. de Giers shows any disposition to put forward alternative proposals in regard to Greek frontier, you should discourage his doing so, as the only way to obtain a settlement from the Porte is to maintain a firm attitude.

No. 178.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9, 7 P.M.)

(No. 95. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 9, 1880, 5 P.M.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has set a report in circulation here that Her Majesty's Government will probably accept the mandate of coercing the Turks to accept the provisions of the Berlin Conference by a blockade of the Turkish ports.

May I contradict report?

No. 179.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9, 11·31 P.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880, 8·12 P.M.

AT its last meeting the Commission appointed a Sub-Committee to revise the Project as amended. This Sub-Committee will report on Thursday.

No. 180.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9, 11·48 P.M.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880, 8·15 P.M.

THE Commission to-day added a new chapter on gendarmerie and police to the Law. This concludes the discussion of the clauses.

No. 181.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Representatives to Powers Parties to the Berlin Treaty.

My Lord,
Sir,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a note which I have signed and sealed, recording the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to various Acts of Delimitation elaborated by Commissions under the Treaty of Berlin, and I have to request will deliver the same to the Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Note.

THE following Acts elaborated by the Delimitation Commissions established in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin, that is to say:—

1. The Act, dated the 14th August, 1879, fixing the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

2. The Act, dated the 20th September, 1879, fixing—

(*a.*) The Danubian frontier of Bulgaria.
(*b.*) The frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey (Macedonia).
(*c.*) The frontier between Bulgaria and Servia.

3. The Act, dated the 17th December, 1878, fixing the Roumanian-Bulgarian (Dobroudja) frontier, with the modifications of Articles VI and VII finally adopted by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin and specified in the Annex to this note; and

4. The Act describing the frontier of Servia:

Having been examined by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, and found conformable to the provisions of that Treaty;

And the Powers having agreed to declare their sanction to these Acts by means of an exchange of notes between the Cabinets;

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to declare that Her Majesty's Government confirm and sanction the Acts above mentioned.

(Signed)
Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office, London, August 9, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

Modifications apportées aux Articles 6 et 7 de l'Acte en date du 17 Décembre, 1878, fixant la Frontière Roumano-Bulgare dressé par la Commission de Délimitation.

Ad Article 6.

Après le dernier alinéa ajoutez:—

"A la suite d'une décision ultérieure des Puissances modifiant la ligne de démarcation depuis le Danube jusqu'au point de repère No. 5 il a été dressé pour cette partie de la frontière le croquis ci-annexé se rapportant au plan topographique sus-indiqué."

Ad Article 7.

Au lieu des 1er, 2e, 3e, et 4e alinéas, écrivez:—

"La ligne-frontière quittant le Danube au point précisé dans l'Article 2 se dirige en courbe légèrement infléchie vers le sud jusqu'à la mi-pente du second contrefort de la hauteur d'Arab-Tabiassi, puis par un angle droit descend cette pente, traverse le ravin pour remonter directement à la ligne de faîte du premier contrefort de la dite hauteur, laissant Arab-Tabiassi à la Roumanie. Elle continue en direction approximative nord-

sud et va rejoindre la route de Karaorman à l'embranchement du sentier qui mène au village d'Almaly. A partir de cet embranchement jusqu'au point de repère No. 5 (indiqué dans le cahier descriptif et marqué par un arbre qui se trouve à l'origine du thalweg existant entre les contreforts d'Ordu-Tabiassi et d'Arab-Tabiassi) la frontière est formée par le côté est de la route de Karaorman, laquelle appartiendra ainsi dans sa totalité à la Bulgarie.

"De ce point elle se dirige vers l'est, formée par les lignes droites qui unissent l'arbre sus-indiqué à un grand tumulus isolé *A* et celui-ci à une arbre voisin de la bifurcation des chemins d'Almaly vers Karaorman et vers Esonkeui (No. 7)."

Inclosure 3 in No. 181.

Sketch Map.

[See Count Károlyi's despatch of June 18, 1880, Part I., p. 203.]

No. 182.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 359.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 186 of the 28th ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Russian Ambassador in regard to the state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and the notes recently addressed by the Porte to the Ambassadors, in which they refer to the occurrences that took place early in May in the Aïdos district; and in reply to your Excellency's request to be informed of the general views of Her Majesty's Government as to the attitude that you should take up in reference to the treatment of the Mussulmans in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, I have to observe that it is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, desirable as far as possible to avoid these questions being allowed to become matters of discussion between Russia and England. They consider, therefore, that you should ascertain what are the views of your other colleagues in regard to them, and act with them in any communications that you may have to make on these subjects to the Porte.

All the Powers that are parties to the Treaty of Berlin are equally bound to carry out its provisions, and there is no reason why Her Majesty's Government should always be put forward to complain singly of the misconduct of the Bulgarian and Roumelian authorities or of Russian officers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 183.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 360.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE authorized your Excellency, by telegraph, to communicate to the Sultan my despatch No. 264 of the 22nd ultimo, in which I stated the arguments to be used by you in urging His Majesty to carry out the cession to Greece awarded by the Conference of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 184.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 385.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 125 of the 8th instant, from which it appears that there is a possibility of the Russian Government entertaining a suggestion for the cession of Crete to Greece as an alternative to the Award delivered by the Berlin

Conference; and I have requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to discourage any disposition which M. de Giers may show to put forward alternative proposals in regard to the Greek frontier, as a settlement of this question can only be obtained from the Porte by the maintenance of a firm attitude by all the Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 185.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 508.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires informed me on the 5th instant that the Austrian Government had no intention, when they suggested certain modifications in the draft of the self-denying Protocol proposed by Her Majesty's Government, to substitute a new formula, but that they merely wished to meet some apprehensions that were entertained by the French Government in regard to the effect of the wording of the Protocol. He added that Baron Haymerle concurred with me, that the modified form which he communicated on the 3rd instant should be only subsidiarily taken into consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 186.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1087.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received and have laid before my colleagues your despatches Nos. 684 and 689 of the 4th and 5th instant, reporting the objections raised by M. de Freycinet and M. de Grévy to the proposal that the collective rejoinder of the Powers to the reply of the Porte on the subject of the Greek frontier question should be drafted by the French Government.

Her Majesty's Government have no wish to assume for this country any undue prominence in the discussions which are now taking place between the Powers and the Porte, while on the other hand they do not desire to evade any portion of the responsibility which attaches to them in concert with the other Powers.

It had seemed to them that, having regard to the interest which has been manifested by France in the Greek frontier question, and to the active part which she has taken in bringing forward the proposals for its settlement, it would be natural in itself, and not otherwise than agreeable to the French Government, that they should undertake the drafting of the reply to the Porte; and this view appears to have recommended itself also to the other Governments.

But it matters little, in our opinion, by whom the actual form of words to be employed is drawn up in the first instance, and if the French Government should maintain their objection, Her Majesty's Government, being informed of their view as to what should be the general tenour of the reply, will be ready themselves to submit a draft of collective note to the Powers for their concurrence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 187.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 40.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I CONCUR in the views expressed in your Excellency's despatch No. 68 of the 27th ultimo as to the application of the new law to the district adjoining Prisrend, with the reservation that any such application should not be allowed to interfere with the possible organization hereafter of the whole of Albania as one province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 188.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 41.)
Foreign Office, August 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I APPROVE the draft paragraphs inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 67 of the 26th ultimo, which you propose for insertion in the "Avis" of the Commission, and which states that the Commission has not sufficient information in regard to the wishes of the Albanian population to recommend the application of the law to any portion of Albania except the district of Prisrend; and suggests that local Commissions should be convoked at Scutari, Elbassan, and Berat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 189.

Consul Moore to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Jerusalem, July 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a telegraphic order has been received by the Turkish military Commander at Jerusalem to embody the conscripts of last year who had been allowed to remain at their homes, and to dispatch them to Constantinople, in order to complete the battalions in Roumelia.

The conscripts in question, for this liwa and the adjoining liwa of Balka (which is comprised in the military district of the Commander at Jerusalem), number about 800 men, who are now being collected with promptitude, and for whom a special transport is to call at Jaffa.

The regular troops now garrisoning this city and district consist of two battalions of infantry of about 400 men each.

The country continues in a state of complete quietude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 190.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 56. Secret and Confidential.)
Belgrade, July 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD occasion to forward this day to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Sophia the following telegram in cypher:—

"Have been secretly informed that an offensive and defensive alliance is being negotiated under Russian auspices between Servia and Bulgaria, Servia engaging to furnish 80,000 men and 50,000 rifles and Bulgaria 100,000 rifles and 40,000 men for mutual assistance and protection.

"Have not reported above information to Her Majesty's Government, although it comes to me from the Servian Foreign Office, as it is in direct contradiction to language held by Servian Government, and therefore requires confirmation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 191.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 57. Secret and Confidential.)
Belgrade, July 26, 1880.

My Lord,

THE information respecting an alleged offensive and defensive alliance between Servia and Bulgaria recorded in my despatch No. 56, Secret and Confidential, of this

date, was privately communicated to me by an official of the Servian Foreign Office, who affirms that he has actually read the document in which the terms of this alliance are consigned. He states that the document in question emanates from the Bulgarian War Minister, a Russian officer. I believe that when the subject of an alliance was first broached to the Servian Government they stoutly refused to entertain it, but that their repugnance has, to a great extent, been overcome through the pressure brought to bear on them by the Russian Legation, which has not failed to point out to them the contingent advantages of acting in close union with Russia and Bulgaria and the grave perils Servia would be exposed to if she were to refuse to co-operate with them. General Tchernaieff, who has of late been off and on here is believed to be mixed up in these negotiations on behalf of the Russian Panslavic Committees.

Although I am far from attaching much weight to a statement of the above nature, particularly as up to the present time there is no evidence to confirm it, and as it is also in contradiction with the repeated assurances of the Servian Government, I have nevertheless considered it advisable under the circumstances to bring it to the notice of Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 192.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 59. Secret and Confidential.)
Belgrade, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Secret and Confidential despatch No. 57 of the 26th instant, I have the honour further to add, for your Lordship's information, that so far there are no indications of military preparations being made in this country, and I have reason to know the armament of the troops, both as regards the infantry and artillery, is in a very defective state. The militia, it is true, has been called out in unusually large numbers in various parts of the Principality; but this I am told on competent foreign authority is merely for the purpose of reorganization and drill in compliance with an ukase issued last spring.

Prince Milan, whom I have had the honour to meet twice since my departure from England, assured me on the first occasion at Vienna that he considers the union of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria would be fraught with serious danger to Servia, and that, while maintaining the strictest neutrality in the impending struggle, his Government were determined to direct their energies exclusively to the internal development of the country. On the second occasion at Belgrade His Highness did not revert to the subject, but he expressed to me the deep interest with which he watched the course of the present crisis in Eastern affairs, and inquired of me whether the reported naval demonstration of the Great Powers would in my opinion lead to active intervention. I replied that I was totally unacquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers in this question, but that I was inclined to believe the combined naval demonstration, if it ever took place, would prove to be a measure directed to give the moral support of unanimous Europe to the Sultan in overcoming the resistance of his Mussulman subjects to the decisions of the late Conference at Berlin, and not a menace against the Ottoman Empire.

The language of M. Ristich is equally positive and reassuring, though it is tinged with resentment against Greece, whom he accuses of not having kept faith with Servia in 1876, when the latter, reckoning on her assistance, engaged in an almost hopeless struggle against the Ottoman rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 193.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 62. Secret and Confidential.)

Belgrade, August 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous correspondence on the subject of an alleged offensive and defensive alliance between Servia and Bulgaria, I have the honour to add it is now tacitly admitted in the best informed and most influential quarters that proposals of this nature have been submitted to the Servian Government, and that much pressure is being exercised by the Russian Agent here to insure their acceptance.

In the course of a conversation I had yesterday with Colonel Catargi, who is Prince Milan's uncle and confidential adviser, and who, moreover, acted as the Servian Military Plenipotentiary at the head-quarters of the Russian army during the late campaign in Turkey and the St. Stefano negotiations, he frankly owned that Servia found herself at the present critical moment in a most embarrassing dilemma. She was informed by Russia that the union of Bulgaria with Eastern Roumelia would shortly become an accomplished fact either with or without her co-operation. In the former case Russia would consider it a point of honour not merely to protect the independence of Servia at any cost, but likewise to secure for her adequate territorial compensation in view of the altered position of Bulgaria. In the latter case Servia would not only incur the severe displeasure of Russia, but be abandoned to whatever fate might be reserved for her between Austria-Hungary on the one side and a powerful and ill-disposed Bulgaria on the other side.

Colonel Catargi, however, assured me, in the most emphatic terms, Prince Milan and his Government had had such bitter experience of the utter want of good faith evinced by Russia in all her previous dealings with Servia that, notwithstanding the isolated position she found herself in, owing to the unfriendly conduct of Austria-Hungary with Germany at her back and the apparent indifference of other Great Powers, nothing would ever induce His Highness to trust himself again in the power of Russia.

I have, at the same time, every reason to believe from what I hear in other equally well informed quarters that, for the present at least, the overtures of Russia have not shaken the determination of the Servian Government to abide strictly by their Treaty engagements; but unless they meet with some support and sympathy from Austria-Hungary and the other Great Powers they may eventually succumb to the force of circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 194.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 69.)

Buyukdéré, July 29, 1880.

My Lord,

THE question of the rights of the Bulgarian Exarchate and clergy came up for discussion at the private meeting of the Commissioners on Tuesday, the 27th, when my proposal to incorporate the 10th chapter of the East Roumelian Statute into the new law, with a few slight alterations, was considered. On the morning of the 27th two Archimandrites, sent by the Exarch, called on me, with a request that I should ask the Commissioners to alter Articles 335 and 336 of the East Roumelian Statute, so that they should contain a distinct enumeration of the communities intended to be benefited, and leave no room for doubt, standing as follows:—

"Art. 335. Les communautés religieuses, Musulmane, Grecque, Bulgare, Juive, Catholique, Protestante, ont une existence légale dans le Vilayet de . . . et conservent les droits, immunités, privilèges et exemptions dont elles jouissaient avant la guerre

"Art. 336. Aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des communautés mentionnées dans l'Article 335, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels, indigènes ou étrangers."

The Commissioners, however, did not see that any sufficient reason existed to induce them to take a different course from that adopted by their predecessors at Philippopoli,

more especially as the reference to the communities in the other Articles of the Law is general and not particular.

The Archimandrites also asked that the following additional Article should be inserted:—

"Les prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes, recevant leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, entreront de plein droit dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, dans le cas où le Firman d'investiture n'a pas été délivré dans le délai de trois mois à partir de la demande."

This I supported on the ground that it was intolerable that the communities should be kept indefinitely waiting for the investiture of their Bishops. I found, however, very great unwillingness on the part of the other Commissioners, except M. Vernoni, to touch the subject. It was stated that, as there was a doctrine of the Canon Law that two Bishops of the same rite could not exist in the same place, and as the rite of the Exarchate and the Patriarchate was the same, the Bulgarian Bishop, if invested, would, on his arrival in any place, oust the Greek Bishop. To this I replied, that the objection, if true at all, was good against the whole Chapter, but that since the Bulgarian Church had been declared to be schismatic, and the rite to be, consequently, different, it no longer could be urged; and that I could see no reason why two Bishops should not exist side by side in the same place. To this it was replied that the Bulgarian population would probably take the law into their own hands, drive out the Orthodox Greek Bishop, and instal his schismatic rival "vi et armis," and that constant breaches of the peace might result; it was therefore necessary to give the Sultan some power of refusing investiture wherever he thought such consequences likely to arise. Eventually the following words were accepted:—

"Les Prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes recevront, comme par le passé, leur investiture de la Sublime Porte. Si une communauté Chrétienne se trouve privée de pasteurs de son rite, et qu'elle en fasse la demande, le Gouvernement Impérial devra rechercher sans retard si la demande ne soulève pas d'objection, et dans ce cas il y fera droit."

M. Vernoni and I considered these words unsatisfactory, as they practically give the Sultan a power of refusing investiture at pleasure, and not merely on the ground of the unfitness of the Prelate presented to him.

The Chapter as proposed by me was, with this addition verbally amended, adopted by the Commission on the 28th July, the Ottoman Commissioners voting against it.

I inclose a copy of a memorandum relating to these matters, sent me by the Exarch.

I may observe that the ambiguous attitude adopted by Russia towards the Exarchate since the latter has been declared schismatic is causing some anxiety in the minds of the Bulgarian clergy. I do not, however, anticipate that it will lead to any serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Memorandum.

VOICI les éparchies où il n'y a pas de populations Grecques, et qui se trouvaient avant la guerre sous la juridiction ecclésiastique de l'Exarchat et avaient des Evêques Bulgares avec des investitures de la Sublime Porte:—

	Maringes.
1. Vêless (Kuprulu)	7,000
2. Ochrida	22,000
3. Scopia	20,000
4. Kustendil, Chtiss, Kotchané, Kratovo	10,500
5. Samakoo, Djounna, Razlog	6,500
Total	66,000

Voici les éparchies où il n'y a pas de populations Grecques (excepté dans la ville de Kastoria et dans la ville de Melenik), et qui veulent s'annexer à l'Exarchat, soit conformément à l'Article 10 du Firman Constitutif de l'Exarchat, soit conformément à l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin:—

	Mariages.
1. Débre	7,000
2. Kastoria	16,000
3. Moglen (Florina)	8,000
4. Pelagonia (Monastir)	12,000
5. Vadena	8,000
6. Siromnitza	12,000
7. Polianna (Avret-Hissar)	8,000
8. Melenik	15,000
Total	85,000

Voici les éparchies mixtes, c'est-à-dire où il y a des Grecs et des Bulgares :—

	Bulgares.	Grecs.
1. Salonique	4,000	4,000
2. Serrès	6,000	6,000
3. Drama, Nevrocop	12,000	2,000
Total	22,000	12,000

Dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople il y a presque autant de Bulgares que de Grecs, c'est-à-dire chacune des nationalités a plus de 40,000 mariages. Pour la population Grecque il y a douze Évêques; pour la population Bulgare il y a un seul Évêque, et sa position n'est pas légalisée par la Sublime Porte.

No. 195.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 70.) *Buyukdéré, July* 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD a conversation yesterday with Abédino Pasha about Albania. He said he hoped that the new law would be extended to the whole of that country. It was perfectly true, he added, that in the mountainous districts it would be inapplicable, but that was equally true of any other project that might be adopted. Time would introduce civilization into these remote districts, and meanwhile the more accessible portions of the country should be brought under the new régime, and be made an example to the others. He said that unless a special law was made for Albania, there would be no necessity to make a fresh distribution of the vilayets.

Yesterday evening, however, I received a copy of Mr. Green's telegram, stating that some redistribution was apparently contemplated. I may also observe that whenever the districts to be ceded to Greece are abandoned by Turkey, the remains of the Vilayet of Janina and the Mutessariflik of Larissa will have to be incorporated with Salonica and Monastir.

I have to-day addressed a private note to Kadry Pasha, complaining of the delay in presenting a map of the vilayets to the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 196.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 71.) *Buyukdéré, July* 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the compte-rendu for the eighth sitting of the European Commission, held at Galata Serai on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 8, *tenue le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juillet*, 1880 (6 *Chaban*, 1297), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Serai, à Constantinople.*

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de la Légation d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat.
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à midi et demi.

Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha annonce à la Commission, en réponse à une question posée à la dernière séance par le Baron de Kosjek, d'accord avec ses collègues étrangers, que la Commission dont les journaux avaient annoncé la formation à la Porte, sous la Présidence de son Excellence Abédine Pacha, ne s'occupera que des réformes à introduire en Asie et nullement du Projet de Loi destiné aux vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion des Articles présentés par les Commissaires Ottomans.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice propose de remplacer l'Article 19 du Projet de Loi par l'amendement ci-après qu'il présente en son nom et au nom du Baron de Kosjek, et il désire que cet Article soit placé après l'Article 82 pour former un Chapitre spécial des finances :—

Nouveaux Articles à placer après l'Article 82.

(*a.*) Ne seront pas portés sur le budget du vilayet les frais de l'armée, de l'artillerie, de la marine, de la Liste Civile, de la représentation étrangère et de la Dette Publique, flottante et consolidée, et tout autre frais se rattachant naturellement aux frais généraux du Gouvernement Central.

Sont également exclus du budget du vilayet : les revenus des Douanes, des impôts et monopoles des tabacs, sels, spiritueux, timbres, soies et poissons, et des postes et télégraphes.

(*b.*) Tous les autres revenus du vilayet seront portés sur le budget du vilayet.

(*c.*) Après prélèvement sur ces revenus des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration du vilayet, les 15 pour cent du restant seront abandonnés au vilayet, pour les dépenses spéciales qui seront fixées par le Conseil Général dans un cahier spécial. Le reste sera versé au Trésor Impérial.

(*d.*) Tous les revenus du vilayet doivent être versés dans la Caisse du vilayet, tenue à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au chef-lieu du vilayet.

(*e.*) La Banque tiendra un compte spécial, intitulé Compte A, pour les frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

(*f.*) Les Valis, dans la limite des sommes accordées dans le Budget pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, fourniront des assignations sur la Banque au débit du compte spécial ci-dessus nommé, et ces assignations seront une première charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, sur laquelle les prélèvements mentionnés à l'Article (*e*) seront opérés par la Banque au fur et à mesure des besoins, mais toujours dans la limite du crédit annuel stipulé.

(*g.*) En outre de ce compte pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, la Banque ouvrira sur ses livres deux comptes distincts, B et C, savoir :—

B. Un compte, dit "du Vilayet," au crédit duquel seront portés les 15 pour cent du solde restant après paiement des frais de l'Administration, lesquels 15 pour cent sont réservés aux dépenses spéciales du vilayet. Le Vali fournira des assignations sur la Banque, au débit de ce compte, qui sera une seconde charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, mais toujours dans la limite des 15 pour cent ci-dessus nommés.

C. Un compte du Trésor Impérial Ottoman au crédit duquel seront portés les 85 pour cent du solde précité, lesquels 85 pour cent doivent être versés au Trésor Impérial.

(*h.*) Toute somme portée sur ce compte sera à la disposition exclusive du Gouvernement Impérial pour subvenir aux frais généraux de l'Empire, et sera versée au Trésor Impérial à Constantinople d'après les instructions du Ministre des Finances.

(*i.*) Cependant, les revenus des Vakoufs, n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

(*k.*) Chaque assignation sur les comptes A et B sera signée par le Vali et par le Defterdar ou un employé provincial de contrôle supérieur et contresignée par le Comptable.

(*l.*) L'Inspecteur des Finances vérifiera les comptes du vilayet, et les ayant examinés, présentera un Rapport au Vali.

(*m.*) Le Vali soumettra le Rapport de l'Inspecteur des Finances au Conseil Général le premier jour de sa séance.

(*n.*) Le Conseil Général choisira entre ses membres élus un Comité qui examinera si les sommes inscrites au budget ont été employées pour les objets auxquels elles ont été accordées.

(*o.*) Les frais de la gendarmerie et de la police sont inclus dans les frais de l'Administration Locale indiqués à la lettre (*e*).

(*p.*) Le Conseil Général aura le droit d'augmenter les sommes inscrites au budget par le Vali et d'ouvrir de nouveaux Chapitres de dépenses pour les frais de l'Administration Locale. Ces nouvelles dépenses ne pourront être, toutefois, exécutées qu'avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit :

"Dans la troisième séance, je me suis permis de critiquer l'Article 89, comme manquant de précision, et surtout, comme ne contenant aucune indication sur le sens exact des mots "les frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration Locale," telle qu'il en existe une dans le Chapitre analogue du règlement de la Crète. L'amendement que je propose commence par une définition. En exchant certains frais du Budget Provincial on arrivera en pratique à l'énumération des matières qui y seront incluses.

"J'ai suivi un peu la rédaction des règlements de la Crète. En s'y conformant, et en accordant en même temps aux membres de l'Assemblée le droit d'augmenter les crédits, on protégera la province contre les économies d'un Vali, qui pourrait désirer de diminuer les frais de l'Administration, pour faire monter outre mesure le solde restant à l'Empire.

"En même temps je propose d'indiquer clairement que les frais de la police et de la gendarmerie entrent dans les frais de l'Administration Locale, et que l'Assemblée doit avoir un pouvoir absolu sur le montant de ces frais et sur le budget en général. Les autres amendements s'expliquent d'eux-mêmes. Ils se rapportent en grande partie au fonctionnement du système financier créé par l'Article 19 et aux détails des droits du Conseil Général en matière budgétaire.

"Je les recommande à l'attention bienveillante de mes collègues."

Après un échange d'idées entre les Commissaires, la discussion des Articles 19, 37, 38, 82 à 89, et de l'amendement ci-dessus est mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice propose d'ajouter au Chapitre des attributions du Conseil

Général, après l'Article 95 du Projet de Loi, l'Article 97 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale en supprimant le premier alinéa :—

"Aucun discours ne pourra être lu," et en remplaçant les mots "d'une des trois langues Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque," du second alinéa par ceux "de sa propre langue."

L'Article prend donc la forme suivante :—

"Art. . Il est loisible à chaque membre de l'Assemblée Générale de se servir pour ses discours, notes, motions, et écrits se rapportant à l'exercice de ses fonctions, de sa propre langue."

Les Commissaires Ottomans ne déclarent ne pouvoir accepter la proposition de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, parce qu'ils ne voient pas la nécessité d'élargir le cercle des langues dans un Conseil Général où l'emploi de plusieurs idiomes à la fois entraverait la marche des travaux et ne donnerait aucun résultat pratique. Dans toute assemblée officielle, ajoutent-ils, il n'y a, en général, que l'emploi d'une seule langue qui soit adoptée. S'il arrivait que quelques membres ne connussent pas la langue usitée, ils pourraient se faire autoriser par le Président, et s'exprimer chacun dans son propre idiome. La faculté de parler sa propre langue dans une assemblée n'est érigée en loi dans aucun pays.

Le Baron de Kosjek, tout en reconnaissant la nécessité de laisser à chacun, dans l'Assemblée Générale, la faculté de s'exprimer dans sa propre langue, trouve inutile d'insérer cette clause au projet.

M. le Président met au vote cet Article proposé par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice.

Les Commissaires de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, adoptent ; ceux d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie votent contre.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'abstient.

Les Commissaires de France et de Grande Bretagne proposent de remplacer l'Article 49 du Projet de Loi par les Articles 13 et 14 du Règlement Administratif de la Crète.

Ces Articles légèrement modifiés sont adoptés à l'unanimité comme Article 49 dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 49. Le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet ne pourra, à quelque titre que ce soit, s'ingérer dans l'exercice du pouvoir judiciaire et exécutif. Dans toute mesure administrative qui ne consisterait pas dans la mise à exécution d'une disposition légale ou réglementaire, mais dont l'application exigerait au préalable une discussion des différents intérêts engagés, le Gouverneur-Général sera tenu de s'en rapporter à l'avis du Conseil sus-mentionné.

"Conformément à ce qui vient d'être dit, le Conseil sus-mentionné aura la droit de discuter toutes les mesures administratives, prises par le Gouverneur-Général, qui auraient un caractère permanent ou d'une certaine durée.

"Le Conseil pourra introduire dans la mesure proposée par le Gouverneur-Général les modifications qu'il croira convenables. Les arrêtés et règlements ainsi discutés pourront être mis à exécution immédiatement par le Gouverneur-Général, sauf à lui à demander l'autorisation du Gouvernement Impérial dans le cas où cela serait nécessaire.

"Si le Gouverneur-Général croit bon de mettre à exécution l'arrêté proposé, bien qu'il ait été répussé par le Conseil ou sans admettre les modifications introduites, il ne pourra procéder à son application qu'en vertu d'un Décret Impérial. Il pourra même procéder à l'exécution immédiate sauf ratification du Gouvernement Impérial également par Décret, mais en déclarant l'urgence et en assumant sur lui toute la responsabilité d'une pareille mesure."

Le Président donne lecture du Titre 5 et de l'Article 101.

D'un commun accord ce Titre spécial est supprimé.

Après un échange de vues entre les Commissaires, l'Article 101, un peu modifié, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit :—

"Art. 101. Dans chaque siège de vilayet l'Administration établira une imprimerie, et fera publier un journal ainsi qu'un almanach sous sa surveillance."

Les Articles 102 et 103 sont supprimés à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 104.

Article 104.

Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice fait quelques observations sur la subdivision des vilayets qu'il trouve compliquée, et propose la suppression des Cazas.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne donne lecture d'un discours à ce sujet (voir annexe au Compte-rendu No. 8).

M. Hitrovo trouve également compliquée la subdivision des vilayets, telle que cet Article l'a créée. Il l'est, dit-il, plus que le système actuellement en vigueur. Quoique en principe, les vilayets soient divisés en sandjaks, cazas, et nahiés, il n'y a en réalité, ajoute-t-il, que trois instances. En effet, souvent les cazas ne sont pas divisés en nahiés.

Le Commissaire de France s'oppose absolument à cette proposition et pense que les divisions administratives doivent demeurer telles qu'elles sont dans le projet, ce qui n'est d'ailleurs que l'application de la primitive loi des vilayets.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha objecte aux remarques du Commissaire de Russie que de tout temps les nahiés ont existé dans les divisions administratives de l'Empire. Son Excellence cite comme exemples les vilayets du Danube, d'Andrinople, et de Salonique.

Le Président met aux voix l'Article 104.

La Commission l'adopte à l'unanimité.

Les Articles 105, 106, et 107, sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture du Titre 7 et de l'Article 108.

Après une vive discussion l'Article 108, dont on supprime la dernière phrase, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit :—

"Art. 108. Les affaires civiles et financières, ainsi que la police d'un sandjak, sont confiées à un Mutessarif (Gouverneur), nommé par Iradé Impérial. Le sandjak qui comprend le chef-lieu du vilayet aura aussi un Mutessarif. Le Mutessarif a pour chef le Vali du vilayet.

"Les Mutessarifs, dans leurs sandjaks, sont chargés d'exécuter tous les ordres du Gouvernement, d'appliquer les instructions écrites émanant de l'Administration du vilayet, d'administrer les affaires intérieures du sandjak déterminées par la loi et qui sont de son ressort. Le Mutessarif, soit pour se conformer aux lois et règlements administratif, soit de sa propre initiative, soumet au Conseil d'Administration les affaires du liva."

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 109.

Article 109.

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose de remplacer cet Article, par l'Article 114 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

Après quelques modifications apportées à ce dernier Article la Commission l'adopte à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après :—

"Art. 109. Le Mutessarif représente le Vali dans le sandjak.

"Il peut prendre des arrêtés et prescrire des mesures obligatoires pour la totalité ou une partie des habitants du sandjak, en conformité des lois et règlements en vigueur ainsi que des ordres du Vali.

"Il choisit et nomme ceux des fonctionnaires et employés qui lui sont subordonnés et dont la nomination n'est pas réservée au Vali ou au Caïmacam ou qui ne sont pas électifs.

"La police du liva étant placée sous les ordres du Mutessarif, celui-ci répond de la tranquillité et de la sécurité publiques du liva.

"Il est chargé d'élever le conflit devant l'autorité judiciaire pour les affaires de la compétence de l'autorité administrative.

"Il surveille l'Administration des nahiés et celle des établissements d'utilité publique non religieux, jouissant de la qualité de personnes juridiques et morales.

"Il accorde ou refuse son autorisation à la création d'établissements dangereux, incommodes ou insalubres, sauf recours de l'impétrant au Gouverneur-Général en cas de refus d'autorisation et l'opposition des tiers intéressés devant les Tribunaux compétents.

"Le Mutessarif statue, en outre, sur toutes les affaires énumérées dans les Tableaux qui suivent l'Article 113, et, en général, sur celles relatives au sandjak et aux cazas qui ne sont pas de la compétence du Vali, du Conseil d'Administration du liva, et des communes.

"Les Tableaux ci-dessus visés peuvent être modifiés dar le Conseil Général.

"Le Mutessarif soumet également au Conseil d'Administration, quand cela sera nécessaire, les affaires indiquées dans ces Tableaux."

L'Article 110 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture de l'Article 111.

L'Article 111, amendé comme suit par M. Aubaret, est accepté par six Commissaires :

"Article 111. Le Mutessarif aura un Mouavin, lequel sera non-Musulman, si le Mutessarif est Musulman et *vice versâ*.

"Lorsque le Mutessarif s'absentera, il ne pourra être remplacé que par son mouavin."

"Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Mardi 20 Juillet :

1. La discussion de l'Article 10 avec l'amendement de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice et du Baron de Kosjek, ainsi que les Articles 37, 38, et 82 à 89.

2. La suite de la discussion des Articles 101 à 228.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
V. DE GRITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

Annexe.

Mémorandum lu par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, dans la Séance du 14 Juillet, 1880.

LE système administratif proposé par le Projet de Loi est trop compliqué. Le vilayet est divisé en sandjaks, gouvernés par des Mutessarifs, les sandjaks en cazas, gouvernés par des Caïmacams, les cazas en nahiés, gouvernés par des Mudirs, et les nahiés en villages et quartiers, gouvernés par des Moukhtars, c'est-à-dire, qu'on ajoute—ainsi qu'il ressort des termes mêmes de l'Article 104—une division administrative de plus à celles qui existent déjà : la division du caza en nahiés. Le nahié, il est vrai, est une unité ancienne et historique, sous un certain point de vue, mais aujourd'hui, c'est à peine s'il existe, comme unité d'administration. La Loi des Vilayets abolissait en principe les anciens nahiés, leur permettant de subsister seulement sur quelques points du territoire, où l'expérience avait démontré que les cazas étaient trop grands pour satisfaire aux besoins et aux devoirs de l'Administration Locale. Cette même loi, il est vrai, parle aussi d'une nouvelle division des cazas en nahiés, mais la division n'a jamais été faite. Ainsi, quoique des nahiés aient existé dans l'ancien vilayet du Danube, et quoiqu'il en existe à l'heure qu'il est dans une partie du Vilayet d'Andrinople, c'est là l'exception et non la règle.

Or, en constituant les nahiés comme divisions administratives, le Projet de Loi ajoute un échelon de plus à la hiérarchie administrative. Je me demande si c'est nécessaire.

Je n'attaque nullement le nahié, qui a été indiqué par les éminents hommes d'Etat, rassemblés à Constantinople en 1876, comme devant former la base de l'Administration. Mais ce n'était pas là leur seule recommandation. Tout en proposant de faire revivre le nahié, ils ont proposé la suppression ou du sandjak ou du caza, comptant ainsi simplifier le système administratif, et en même temps faire des économies utiles.

De même la Commission, quand elle siégeait à Philippopoli, en conservant le caza, a rejeté la création des nahiés. "J'ai eu soin," disait le Baron de Ring, auteur principal du Chapitre y relatif, "de confondre dans mon canton le caza et le nahié Tures, ce qui m'a permis d'éliminer un échelon des anciennes divisions du pays." D'un autre côté, les Commissaires Russes, tout en ayant le même but, ont proposé la suppression du caza. "La division en petits cantons ou nahiés," disait le Prince Tzerotelew, "est une division historique et facile à reconstituer." Reste à savoir si les idées du Baron de Ring, ou celles de la Conférence de Constantinople, doivent l'emporter maintenant. Devons-nous maintenir le caza ou le nahié ? Je préférerais

le maintien de ce dernier. Dans un pays où les communications sont difficiles, et même quelquefois manquent entièrement, une unité administrative petite répondra aux besoins des habitants. Il est probable d'ailleurs que si les cazas étaient abolis, les sandjaks seraient bientôt réduits en étendue. Cette étendue est maintenant trop grande. Le sandjak deviendrait ainsi en pratique caza, tout en conservant son nom, et en pratique cela serait le sandjak qui disparaîtrait plutôt que le caza. C'était là la pensée de la Conférence de Constantinople. Son objet, comme il a déjà été indiqué, était d'abolir un échelon de la hiérarchie et de simplifier ainsi l'Administration.

Mais ce n'était pas là son seul objet. Le Caïmacam est nommé; le Mudir, Chef du nahié, est élu. Or, en adoptant le nahié comme base de l'Administration, on donnerait le dessus à l'élément électif. Mais le gouvernement du vilayet pourrait maintenir—ce qui d'ailleurs serait en tout cas désirable—un contrôle général sur les Mudirs, en payant la moitié de leurs appointements, moyennant approbation de leur Administration. "On devra accorder à la population," disait le Marquis de Salisbury à Constantinople, "un contrôle sur ses propres affaires, et les réformes demandées par la note Andrassy doivent être comprises dans l'arrangement à intervenir. Mais on demande en outre des garanties efficaces contre l'exercice d'une autorité arbitraire et la mauvaise administration. Ces garanties consisteraient dans l'élection des autorités cantonales, proposée par les Représentants des Puissances Garantes, et acceptée par la Sublime Porte dans la deuxième séance plénière."

Ces mêmes propositions se retrouvent dans le minimum réduit présenté à la huitième séance: "Cantons . . . avec des autorités cantonales librement élues par la population dans chaque commune compétente pour toutes les questions touchant les intérêts du canton."

C'est, inspiré par les mêmes sentiments, et ayant le même but devant moi, que je renouvelle aujourd'hui la proposition faite par le Marquis de Salisbury à Constantinople en 1876.

No. 197.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord,

Buyukdéré, August 3, 1880.

THE Ottoman Commissioners yesterday presented a map to the Commission, purporting to represent the existing delimitation of the vilayets.

On examination, however, it turned out to be an old map made in 1870, upon which the boundaries fixed for the Berlin Treaty for Servia and Bulgaria had been subsequently traced, but it showed the old, not the new, boundaries of the vilayets.

The Ottoman Commissioners were very much astonished when this was pointed out to them. They have now undertaken to furnish the Commission at its next sitting with a tabular statement of the districts contained in each vilayet, and with this information, if found accurate, it may be possible for me to prepare a map.

I understood Mr. J. E. Blunt to say that Ipek and Diabrovo were still in the vilayet of Kossovo; but Mr. St. John is of opinion that they have been moved into the vilayet of Monastir, together with Prizrend and Dibra. I have consequently again communicated with Mr. Blunt on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 198.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 312.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, July 31, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, in French translation, copy of a petition which has been addressed to the different Consulates in this town by certain Greek Notables, with a view to exposing the injustice to which, they maintain, the Greek population of the province is subjected at the hands of the Bulgarian majority.

The inclosed extract from the "Maritza" is evidently published with a view to refuting the statements contained in this petition, of which it apparently possesses a copy.

I have furnished Colonel Wilson with copies of these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

Greek Notables at Philippopoli to Mr. Stephen.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul,

Philippopoli, le 22 Juin / 4 Juillet 1880.

NOUS avons plusieurs fois cru devoir exposer nos griefs à MM. les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et plusieurs fois nous leur avons signalé les violations du Statut Organique ainsi que les déprédations auxquelles nous sommes continuellement en butte.

Malheureusement, nos démarches n'ont jamais eu quelque résultat pratique. La nécessité d'une amélioration dans l'administration de cette province—nécessité reconnue par tout le monde—n'est pas sortie des limites de la théorie.

La dernière convocation de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale nous a fait naître de nouveau l'espoir que l'Europe se saisirait de cette occasion pour examiner la situation de ce pays. Ainsi c'est avec courage que nous nous adressons de nouveau à elles pleins d'espoir qu'elle ferait tout son possible pour remédier au mal.

La Commission Européenne qui élabora notre Statut Organique eut soin d'assurer avant tout l'existence de diverses nationalités habitant cette province et leur égalité dans les devoirs et les droits sans distinction de race ou de religion.

Dans ce but elle a consacré une série de dispositions garantissant la distribution des emplois de toutes les branches administratives proportionnellement au nombre de chaque nationalité, et enfin elle a octroyé à chaque communauté des droits ayant pour but d'empêcher la majorité de s'imposer sur les minorités et de les opprimer comme cela se faisait pendant le régime ancien.

Mais l'expérience a suffisamment démontré que toutes ces dispositions ne servent à rien devant l'exclusivisme de la race en majorité. Celle-ci, ayant accaparé pour elle-même l'administration du pays, fait tous ces efforts pour anéantir l'existence des minorités et tout ce qui n'est pas Slave dans la province, et par des violations successives du Statut Organique et d'autres moyens illicites ramener l'ancien régime dans tout son hideux aspect.

Les moyens illicites employés par les majorités, vous n'êtes pas sans l'ignorer. Ainsi nous croyons devoir passer sans silence les déprédations et les oppressions commises sur des particuliers, les usurpations des biens, les rapts de villages, les incendies, et les meurtres et enfin toute la série des actes regrettables perpétrés dans plusieurs points de la province par des personnes agissant sous les ordres des Comités Secrets au su et à la pleine connaissance du Gouvernement.

Nous nous bornons réellement de relater quelques-unes de nos plaintes se rapportant à la violation du Statut Organique par le Gouvernement lui-même et la race en majorité.

Bien que le Statut Organique par les Articles 21 et 24 rend les emplois publics accessibles à tout et commande leur juste distribution en proportion du nombre des habitants, néanmoins nous remarquons qu'en Roumélie Orientale toutes les places sont occupés exclusivement par des Bulgares, dont la plupart font partie des Comités Sécrets, nos plus implacables persécuteurs. Ainsi les Directeurs, les Préfets, les Baillis, les Juges, la police, les officiers, les soldats, en un mot tous les fonctionnaires sont exclusivement des Bulgares, sauf quelques exceptions insignifiantes. Quelles sont les conséquences de cet exclusivisme? Ce n'est certainement pas le préjudice matériel que nous éprouvons par la perte des émoluments des fonctions publiques, car nous ne sommes pas habitués à vivre des deniers du fisc, mais l'absence dans l'Administration de personnel non hostile à notre nationalité et désireux de nous assurer l'égalité devant la loi avec nos autres concitoyens. De cette composition des autorités nous avons les résultats suivants:

Des listes électorales contraires à la vérité et faisant la liberté du souffrage sont dressées par une autorité; si des plaintes s'élèvent contre ces listes, les employés chargés de les contrôler, appartenant tous à la majorité, ne font aucun cas de nos justes plaintes. Si nous élevons la voix pour protester contre l'ingérence de l'autorité dans

les élections nous ne sommes pas écoutés, et si dans quelque collège électoral le résultat nous est favorable, grâce à une grande supériorité numérique, l'autorité compétente annule les élections sans aucun motif plausible et par des actes arbitraires et des illégalités réitérées, elle réussit enfin à nous exclure de partout. Les exemples de pareilles violations et illégalités ne manquent et surtout aux différentes élections de Philippopoli, Stanimaka, Kavakly, et Bourgas.

L'Article 22 du Statut Organique consacre l'emploi de notre langue comme une des trois langues officielles du pays; pourtant, dès le premier jour de l'arrivée du Gouverneur-Général, ce droit précieux fut violé, le Firman n'étant pas lu que dans les deux autres langues et cela en présence de MM. les membres de la Commission Européenne. Depuis, ce droit fut violé en plusieurs reprises, tant dans l'Assemblée Provinciale, où les Projets de Lois sont présentés en langue Bulgare seulement, que dans les relations quotidiennes des autorités envers les particuliers et envers les autorités subalternes. Ainsi, par exemple, tandis que d'après la loi, la correspondance avec les autorités des cantons et des communes doit être faite dans la langue parlée de la majorité de celles-ci, les autorités supérieures non-seulement n'emploient pas cette langue, mais encore elles en interdisent formellement l'emploi aux autorités subalternes. De même si devant les Tribunaux un Grec persiste à parler sa langue, il s'attire inévitablement la haine des Juges, qui ne se font aucun scrupule de lui faire perdre sa cause, fut-elle la plus juste. La chose serait encore supportable si le Bulgare était une langue formée et possédant la nomenclature et la phraséologie particulières au langage judiciaire, mais, au contraire, elle en est tout-à-fait dépourvue, de manière que les Juges eux-mêmes, lors de leurs délibérations, sont bien souvent forcés d'employer le Grec pour parvenir à s'entendre.

D'après l'Article 110 la subdivision de la province devait être faite de manière à satisfaire les besoins administratifs, les intérêts locaux, et la facilité de la communication. Cependant on n'a tenu aucun compte de ces dispositions de la loi; bien au contraire, on a mis tout en œuvre pour arriver au démembrement des populations Grecques et Turques de plusieurs circonscriptions afin de neutraliser leur prépondérance, d'une part par l'adjonction de plusieurs villages du chef-lieu de la circonscription, et de l'autre, en séparant des villages Greco-Tures très-rapprochés du centre pour les réunir à des chefs-lieux très-éloignés, mais qui offraient l'avantage de la majorité Bulgare. Ainsi, dans le canton Grec de Kavakly, qui, par sa grande majorité Grecque, s'éloigne beaucoup des vues des patriotes Bulgares afin d'arriver à sa neutralisation, une partie de douze villages Grecs environ ont été subordonnés à la juridiction cantonale de Kizil-Aghatch, et une partie à celle de Harmanly, et par contre on a complété le canton ainsi démembré de Kavakly par l'adjonction des villages Bulgares très-éloignés.

La même distribution sommaire a été appliquée dans le Canton de Stanimaka, dans lequel on a compris des villages Bulgares éloignés de cinq à six heures de ce centre, tandis que ces villages ne sont qu'à une demi-heure du Canton de Hadji Ellès. Pour ce qui est de la subdivision du département de Bourgas, elle présente un véritable gâchis administratif.

Le Statut Organique stipule expressément que les charges de l'instruction primaire et moyenne appartiennent aux communautés religieuses, et que nulle école ne doit être établie ou maintenue dans la province qu'en vertu d'une loi réglementaire des cours, &c., cependant, voilà déjà deux périodes budgétaires de la province pendant lesquelles des sommes importantes ont été votées pour l'entretien d'écoles purement Bulgares; le dernier de ces budgets est frappant par la générosité caractéristique avec laquelle la somme imposante d'un million de francs a été votée en faveur d'institutions Bulgares qualifiées "Ecoles de la Province;" et ceci sans aucune loi établissant de pareilles institutions et par violation du Statut Organique. Après un pareil arbitraire on ne s'explique que trop la parsimonie avec laquelle on a procédé à l'égard des écoles Grecques auxquelles la somme minime de £T. 350 a été allouée pour toute subvention.

L'Article 177 règle que la composition du personnel de la gendarmerie sera faite de façon à établir une proportion analogue entre les divers éléments des populations de la province et qu'il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités. Malgré les dispositions si claires et si précises, la gendarmerie a été composée uniquement de Bulgares, et ce qui plus est, dans le canton purement Grec du Kavalky le Gouvernement, contraint par les représentations populaires à enrôler des Grecs, n'a voulu en recruter que dix qu'il a aussitôt éloigné de Kavalky pour les diriger sur des cantons Bulgares.

On se résignerait peut-être à passer outre sur toutes ses transgressions du Statut

Organique, si au moins justice nous était rendue par les Tribunaux. Malheureusement nous avons à constater que la distribution de la justice ayant été confiée à des Cours et Tribunaux composés uniquement, sauf quelques rares exceptions, des membres Bulgares dépourvus de toute notion de droit et appartenant pour la plupart aux Comités Secrets tendant l'anéantissement des nationalités non-Bulgares, font preuve d'une partialité ruineuse pour les intérêts des Grecs.

En appui de ce que nous avançons nous pourrions citer un grand nombre d'exemples, parmi lesquels nous nous contentons de soumettre à votre approbation les suivants:

1. Ainsi un Grec, nommé Pavlitis, ayant, à la suite du décès de son frère, réglé par l'entremise de l'autorité compétente tous comptes provenant de la succession de son frère avec sa belle-sœur, de nationalité Bulgare, sœur de M. Vulcovitch, Directeur des Travaux Publics, et après avoir remis à la dite autorité la fortune de son frère décédé et avoir obtenu quittance légale, se voit-il aujourd'hui, après une espace de vingt années, cité en justice par ses neveux Bulgares, protégés par leur oncle, M. Vulcovitch, et condamné en Première Instance au mépris de la chose jugée à payer à ses neveux déjà majeurs la somme de £T. . . . . Sur la demande en Appel la Cour oblige le nommé Pavlitis à un nouveau réglement des comptes.

2. Une maison ayant été cédé à la communauté Grecque de Stanimaka par Madame vient d'être revendiquée par le couvent Bulgare Moldava pour la seule raison qu'un moine Grec faisant partie du personnel de ce monastère avait, lors de son expulsion par les Bulgares, reçu l'hospitalité dans la maison actuellement en litige. Les Tribunaux, satisfaits de cet argument concluant, ont reconnu au couvent le droit de propriété sur cette maison.

3. Une forêt appartenant au village Grec de Kouklina a été dévastée et incendiée par les Bulgares du village . Les habitants de Kouklina, malgré toutes leurs démarches auprès des autorités, n'ont obtenu aucune satisfaction si ce n'est que des exhortations de reconnaître l'autorité de l'Exarchat Bulgare.

4. Les maisons rustiques situées dans la propriété de M. Pétracoglou, Grec, à Katounitza, ont été brûlées par des miliciens et paysans Bulgares, et comme son fils demandait aux incendiaires la raison de leurs actions ceux-ci l'ont garotté, et après l'avoir battu, l'ont conduit aux prisons de Philippopoli. Pour ces méfaits les autorités du pays n'ont donné aucune suite à la plainte du dit Grec. Le Général Vitalis ayant cru de son devoir de punir sévèrement les soldats coupables a rencontré une grande opposition de la part de ses collègues et s'est attiré le ressentiment des Comités Secrets.

M. Pétracoglou à la suite de ce déni de justice se vit obligé d'affermer sa propriété à vil prix.

5. De même la propriété de M. G. Gumusgherdani a été en partie détruite, et son fils, après avoir été battu et menacé dans sa vie, il aurait trouvé la mort sans l'intervention d'un gendarme de sa connaissance. La plainte de M. G. Gumusgherdani par devant les autorités administratives et judiciaires resta sans résultat.

6. Lors des élections des Conseillers Départementaux les Bulgares du Canton de Stanimaka, s'étant rendus au lieu de scrutin pour la plupart armés, se sont portés à de violences contre les électeurs Grecs.

Les autorités judiciaires au lieu de procéder à l'enquête avec impartialité, ont envoyé pour faire l'instruction de l'affaire, M. Stambouloff, Président du Comité Secret de Philippopoli. Il suffirait de porter le fez et d'être désigné par les paysans Bulgares pour être arrêté par ce fonctionnaire sans mandat d'arrêt. Aussi vingt Grecs ont été arrêtés et emprisonnés pendant plus d'un mois sans aucun jugement de condamnation.

Il va sans dire qu'aucun des Bulgares n'a été arrêté.

7. Pendant le mois de Février passé les élèves de l'école Bulgare ont attaqué à la promenade les internes de l'Institution Zarifia. Le Tribunal ayant saisi cette affaire a condamné un professeur Grec qui avait intervenu pour séparer les élèves. Le professeur a été frappé de cette condamnation parce que son intervention avait empêché les élèves Bulgares de maltraiter davantage les internes Grecs.

Pendant les débats de cette affaire il a été prouvé que le Préfet de la Police ainsi qu'un des gendarmes ont déposé de faux témoignages. Le Procureur ne les a pas poursuivi parce qu'ils étaient Bulgares.

8. A Kavakly, district purement Grec, toutes les vignes ont été complètement détruites par les miliciens Bulgares. Jusqu'aujourd'hui la situation dans cette localité continue d'être des plus insupportables. L'élément Grec est opprimé et lésé dans ses droits; on lui impose des obligations que le Gouvernement seul en devait être chargé.

9. Enfin tout le monde sait que par la Proclamation des Comités Secrets, composés la plupart des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement, les Bulgares ont été invités sous peine d'excommunication à rompre toute relation avec les Grecs, à ne pas travailler dans les propriétés Grecques, et en un mot à nourrir une haine implacable contre eux. Ainsi le commerce de ces derniers souffre beaucoup.

10. Les marchands Grecs sont partout maltraités et ferment leurs boutiques. Plusieurs d'entre eux ont été battus. Tout dernièrement deux marchands Grecs de Stanimaka ont été massacrés à Otlouk-keui. Les Tribunaux étant pour la plupart composés des membres des Comités Secrets, les Grecs qui s'y adressent ne trouvent aucune justice.

Ainsi notre existence dans ce pays est devenue problématique, et nous faisons de nouveau appel aux Puissances en sollicitant leur protection.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

Extract from the "Maritza" of July 30, 1880.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet.

RIEN ne montre mieux l'inanité des griefs de nos Grecs Roumeliotes que les prétendus dénis de justice qui sont cités dans le Mémoire que les émissaires des syllogues Grecs leur ont fait signer. Voilà quatorze mois que, d'après les auteurs de ce Mémoire, les Bulgares ne font que travailler à l'anéantissement des minorités. Leurs Cours et Tribunaux "composés uniquement, sauf quelques exceptions, de membres Bulgares dépourvus de toute notion de droit et appartenant pour la plupart aux Comités Secrets" secondent activement le but infernal que ces Comités se sont donné. Dans de pareilles circonstances, on s'attend à voir des faits inouïs commis par des Tribunaux qui ne sont que des instruments dociles entre les mains de ces cannibales Bulgares qui forment partie des Comités Secrets. On s'attend à voir citer des procédés inquisitoriaux, des cas de torture, des arrêts de mort, des exécutions sommaires à la Ibrahim Pacha: des faits, en un mot, tout aussi noirs, des forfaits tout aussi monstrueux que l'empoisonnement des frères Miladinoff, et tous les autres exemples de la justice Gréco-Phanariote que M. Jireck cite dans son histoire de l'époque où les Evêques Grecs régnaient en maîtres dans toute la Turquie d'Europe. Mais dans cette partie, comme dans tout le reste du document encombré par les émissaires Phanariotes on est terriblement désappointé. Au lieu des persécutions judiciaires d'une iniquité inouïe, au lieu de ces crimes monstrueux auxquels le début du Mémoire nous fait attendre, on voit citer comme pièces à l'appui les prétentions inqualifiables de M. Pavlitis, les orgies honteuses de M. G. Gumuchguerdan fils, et les procès scandaleux des élèves de l'Institution Zarifia. Comme nous n'avançons rien sans le prouver, nous tâcherons de démontrer combien ces prétendus dénis de justice que les Grecs ont choisi parmi les centaines de procès qui se sont déroulés entre Grecs et Bulgares méritaient d'être arrachés à l'oubli qui leur seyait si bien.

Citons tout d'abord la partie du Mémoire qui a trait à ce sujet. Les auteurs de ce Mémoire doivent la considérer comme leur principal argument puisqu'ils disent:—

"On se résignerait peut-être à passer outre sur toutes ces transgressions du Statut Organique si au moins justice nous était rendue par les Tribunaux. Malheureusement nous avons à constater que la distribution de la justice ayant été confiée à des Cours et Tribunaux composés uniquement, sauf quelques rares exceptions, de membres Bulgares dépourvus de toute notion de droit et appartenant pour la plupart aux Comités Secrets tendant à l'anéantissement des nationalités non-Bulgares, font preuve d'une partialité ruineuse pour les intérêts des Grecs.

"En appui de ce que nous avançons nous pourrions citer un grand nombre d'exemples parmi lesquels nous nous contentons de soumettre à votre appréciation les suivants:

"Ainsi un Grec nommé Pavlitis, ayant, à la suite du décès de son frère, réglé par l'entremise de l'autorité compétente tous les comptes provenant de la succession de son frère avec sa belle-sœur de nationalité Bulgare, sœur de M. Voulkovitch, Directeur des Travaux Publiques, et après avoir remis à la dite autorité la fortune de son frère décédé et avoir obtenu quittance légale, se voit-il aujourd'hui, après un espace de vingt années, cité en justice par ses neveux Bulgares protégés par leur oncle, M. Voulkovitch,

* "Geschichte der Bulgaren," page 555 et suivantes.

et condamné en Première Instance au mépris de la chose jugée à payer à ses neveux déjà majeurs la somme de £ T. . Sur la demande en Appel, la Cour oblige le nommé Pavlitis à un nouveau réglement des comptes.

"Une maison ayant été cédée à la communauté Grecque de Stanimaka par M. vient d'être revendiquée par le couvent Bulgare Moldava pour la seule raison qu'un moine Grec faisant partie du personnel de ce monastère avait, lors de son expulsion par les Bulgares, reçu l'hospitalité dans la maison actuellement en litige. Les Tribunaux, satisfaits de cet argument concluant, ont reconnu au couvent le droit de propriété sur cette maison.

"Une forêt appartenant au village Grec de Couclaina a été dévastée et incendiée par les Bulgares du village . . . . Les habitants de Couclaina malgré toutes leurs démarches auprès des autorités n'ont obtenu aucune satisfaction si ce n'est que des exhortations à reconnaître l'autorité de l'Exarchat Bulgare.

"Les maisons rustiques situées dans la propriété de M. Pétracoglou, Grec, à Katounitza, ont été brûlées par des miliciens et paysans Bulgares, et comme son fils demandait aux incendiaires la raison de leur action, ceux-ci l'ont garotté, et après l'avoir battu, l'ont conduit aux prisons de Philippopoli. Pour ces méfaits, les autorités du pays n'ont donné aucune suite à la plainte du dit Grec. Le Général Vitalis ayant cru de son devoir de punir sévèrement les soldats coupables a rencontré une grande opposition de la part de ses collègues et s'est attiré le ressentiment des Comités Secrets.

"M. Pétracoglou, à la suite de ce déni de justice, se vit obligé d'affermer sa propriété à vil prix.

"De même, la propriété de M. G. Gumuchguerdan a été en partie détruite et son fils, après avoir été battu et menacé de sa vie, aurait trouvé la mort sans l'intervention d'un gendarme de sa connaissance. La plainte de M. Gumuchguerdan par devant les autorités administratives et judiciaires resta sans résultat.

"Lors des élections des Conseillers Départementaux, les Bulgares du Canton de Stanimaka s'étant rendu au lieu du scrutin, pour la plupart armés, se sont portés à des violences contre les électeurs Grecs. Les autorités judiciaires au lieu de procéder à l'enquête avec impartialité ont envoyé pour faire l'instruction de l'affaire M. Stambouloff, Président du Comité Secret de Philippopoli.

"Il suffisait de porter le fez et d'être désigné par les paysans Bulgares pour être arrêté par ce fonctionnaire sans mandat d'arrêt.

"Aussi vingt Grecs ont été arrêtés et emprisonnés pendant plus d'un mois sans aucun jugement de condamnation.

"Il va sans dire qu'aucun des Bulgares n'a été arrêté.

"Pendant le mois de Février passé les élèves des écoles Bulgares ont attaqué à la promenade les internes de l'Institution Zarifia. Le Tribunal ayant saisi cette affaire a condamné un professeur Grec qui avait intervenu pour séparer les élèves. Le professeur a été frappé de cette condamnation parce que son intervention avait empêché les élèves Bulgares de maltraiter davantage les internes Grecs.

"Pendant les débats de cette affaire il a été prouvé que le Préfet de Police ainsi qu'un des gendarmes ont déposé de faux témoignages. Le Procureur ne les a pas poursuivi parce qu'ils étaient Bulgares.

"A Kavakli, district purement Grec, toutes les vignes ont été complètement détruites par les miliciens Bulgares. Jusqu'aujourd'hui la situation dans cette localité continue à être des plus insupportables. L'élément Grec est opprimé et lésé dans ses droits; on lui impose des obligations que le Gouvernement seul en devait être chargé.

"Enfin tout le monde sait que par la proclamation des Comités Secrets composés pour la plupart de fonctionnaires du Gouvernement les Bulgares ont été invités sous peine d'excommunication à rompre toute relation avec les Grecs, à ne pas travailler dans les propriétés Grecques; et en un mot à nourrir une haine implacable contre eux. Ainsi le commerce de ces derniers souffre beaucoup.

"Les marchands Grecs sont partout maltraités et ferment leurs boutiques. Plusieurs d'entre eux ont été battus. Tout dernièrement deux marchands Grecs de Stanimaka ont été massacré à Otlou-keui. Les Tribunaux étant pour la plupart composés des membres des Comités Secrets les Grecs qui s'y adressent ne trouvent aucune justice.

"Ainsi notre existence, dans ce pays, est devenue problématique, et nous faisons de nouveau appel aux Puissances, en sollicitant leur protection."

Voilà tout ce que nos Grecs ont pu citer pour prouver que "leur existence dans ce pays est devenue problématique." Il faut avoir érigé l'effronterie en principe et

le Byzantinisme en système pour pouvoir arriver à une telle conclusion. Nous prendrons un à un les différents cas qui sont cités, et nous laisserons le public impartial à se prononcer si les griefs Grecs méritent l'attention des gens sérieux.

"Le Grec nommé Pavlitis" ne doit pas être très-content de la prominence qu'on donne à son procès. On n'a pas encore oublié en ville les commentaires auxquels donna lieu l'absence de tout document établissant ses relations avec son frère aîné quand ce dernier mourut subitement il y a vingt ans. Les deux fils du défunt, Basile et Georges, laissés en bas âge, eurent tout d'abord pour tuteur M. Georges Stoyannovitch, actuellement Sénateur de l'Empire Ottoman. Mais la tutelle de M. Stoyannovitch ne dura pas longtemps: M. Pavlitis réussit bientôt à le supplanter et à se faire nommer tuteur des mineurs. Ces mineurs ont depuis longtemps atteint la majorité, et dès qu'ils purent après la guerre rentrer dans leur pays, ils demandèrent à régler leurs comptes avec l'ex-associé de leur père et leur tuteur. M. Pavlitis, cité par le Tribunal de Première Instance, refusa de comparaître: un Jugement par défaut le condamna à payer à ses neveux une somme assez ronde. Il en appela à la Cour d'Appel, et dans sa séance du 16 Mars, 1879, il prit l'engagement de faire un nouveau réglement de comptes avec ses neveux. Deux arbitres furent nommés et M. Pavlitis promit d'accepter leur jugement sans appel. Il est vrai que dans une séance postérieure M. Pavlitis tâcha de se soustraire à l'engagement qu'il avait pris le 26 Mars; mais invité par le Procureur-Général, M. Przewlocky, de s'inscrire en faux contre le procès-verbal du 16 Mars, il refusa et par cela même admit la parfaite exactitude de ce procès-verbal. Où est donc l'obligation que la Cour Supérieure aurait imposée à M. Pavlitis? Où est ce prétendu mépris de la chose jugée dont ses avocats officieux se plaignent?

Après le procès de M. Pavlitis vient la maison appartenant au couvent Bulgare de Môldava. Les auteurs du Mémoire Grec prétendent que cette maison appartient à la communauté Grecque de Stanimaka, qui l'aurait reçue de M. —— L'idée de la propriété n'a jamais brillé par sa force chez nos amis les Phanariotes. Il y a à peine quelques années, ils prétendaient que la province qui a été depuis baptisée du nom de Roumélie Orientale était un pays Grec, parce que dans une époque lointaine elle avait été pendant quelque temps sous la domination Byzantine. Par un pareil raisonnement la communauté Grecque de Stanimaka doit avoir cru que la propriété du couvent de Moldava lui appartenait parce que pendant l'époque troublée de la guerre, elle a su profiter de la position des Bulgares et vendre la propriété à un certain Ksafoglou. Après la guerre, le couvent a voulu rentrer dans la possession de sa propriété, et comme les titres de possession et les témoins Bulgares et Grecs qu'il a produits ont complètement prouvé son droit de possession, le Tribunal a été obligé de lui donner gain de cause. *Hinc ira.*

L'année passée, un incendie détruisit une partie de la forêt en litige entre les villages de Yavrovo (village Bulgare) et Kouklena (village Turco-Grec). Les habitants de Yavrovo, qui soupçonnaient leurs voisins, les habitants de Kouklena, d'avoir mis le feu, leur intentèrent un procès en dommages-intérêts, mais faute de preuves, ils durent le retirer. Aucun procès n'a été intenté par les habitants de Kouklena, qui n'auraient pas pu prouver que la forêt dont il s'agit leur appartient et qui n'ont jamais reçu des exhortations à reconnaître l'autorité de l'Exarchat Bulgare. Les émissaires Phanariotes ont dû puiser dans leur propre pratique en Macédoine pour accuser les Bulgares d'avoir recours à ce moyen-là d'étendre l'autorité de leur Chef spirituel.

"Les maisons rustiques" de M. Pétracoglou ont été en partie détruites pendant une époque où des centaines de maisons rustiques Bulgares ont été détruites rien que pour le combustible qu'elles offraient aux soldats transis de froid. Quant à l'affaire de M. Pétracoglou fils, elle n'a rien de commun avec les dommages causés à la propriété de son père. Elle eut lieu par suite de l'audace de M. Pétracoglou fils, qui se permit de tirer son revolver et d'en menacer la sentinelle qui faisait sa faction devant la provision de fourrage de l'escadron, et qui lui défendit de passer par un endroit qui était défendu. C'est pour cette attaque que le jeune patriote de Stanimaka fut garotté par les soldats et envoyé ici, où, quoiqu'il méritât une punition exemplaire, il fut mis en liberté.

Aucune propriété de M. G. Gumuchguerdan n'a jamais été détruite. Son fils se trouvant un jour à Tsaratsovo, village situé à 3 kilomètres de notre ville, et ayant fait de copieuses libations en compagnie du maître d'école, voulut aller à une noce qui avait lieu ce jour-là dans le village et à laquelle il n'était pas invité. Sa conduite y fut tellement scandaleuse, que le Maire se vit obligé de faire arrêter les deux intrus par le gendarme qui se trouvait là, et de les faire garder à l'école jusqu'à ce que les fumées fussent dissipées. M. G. Gumuchguerdan fils intenta un procès contre le Maire

et ses adjoints, mais dut promptement le retirer, tellement l'évidence contre lui était accablante. Les auteurs du Mémoire auraient dû suivre son exemple et laisser dans l'oubli une affaire qui ne fait pas beaucoup d'honneur à leur compatriote.

L'affaire des émeutiers de Stanimaka devant venir prochainement par devant le Tribunal départemental de notre ville, nous nous abstiendrons pour le moment de tout commentaire. Le procès, dont nous rendrons un compte impartial, prouvera, croyons-nous, qu'en dehors des deux gardes champêtres Bulgares qui étaient venus en ville avec leurs fusils, aucun Bulgare n'était arrivé armé, et que, dans leur attaque contre les Bulgares, les électeurs Grecs ont fait preuve d'une intolérance inouïe. Quant à l'assertion que les émeutiers auraient été emprisonnés sans mandat d'arrêt, les registres du Juge d'Instruction sont là pour prouver que du $\frac{4}{16}$ jusqu'au $\frac{13}{25}$ Mars il a lancé des mandats d'arrêts pour l'arrestation de vingt personnes plus ou moins gravement compromises dans l'affaire du $\frac{3}{15}$ Mars.

Nous voilà enfin arrivés à cette fameuse attaque des élèves Bulgares par les internes de l'Institution Zarifia, que nos Grecs auraient fait bien de ne pas citer. Mais comme ils en ont jugé autrement, nous croyons de notre devoir de reproduire ci-après le compte-rendu de cette affaire que nous avons publié dans notre numéro du $\frac{3}{15}$ Mai.

"Le Tribunal Départemental de Philippopoli (section criminelle) a rendu avant-hier, Mardi, son jugement dans l'affaire George Ioannou et P. Iconomopoulo, accusé le premier d'avoir blessé deux écoliers Bulgares près de la gare de Philippopoli, et le second, d'avoir excité George Ioannou à porter ces blessures. Nos lecteurs se rappellent que le premier des prévenus était élève, et le second professeur à l'école Grecque que M. Zarifi, le Banquier Grec de Constantinople, maintient dans notre ville. Au cours des débats de cette affaire, l'accusé G. Ioannou a entièrement confirmé la déposition qu'il avait faite pendant l'interrogatoire qu'il avait subi après son arrestation qui a suivi sa fuite. Voici quelques passages de cette déposition, qui contient quelques faits sans exemple dans les annales judiciaires:—

"'Je suis élève de M. Zarifi. Après l'échauffourée entre les élèves Bulgares et Grecs, je fus sommé par huissier de me présenter au Tribunal Criminel de Philippopoli. Mais les Notables Grecs, pour éviter le scandale, après m'avoir fait appeler à la Métropole Grecque en présence de sa Grâce l'Archevêque Grec, M. le Docteur Wlados (Député) et M. Koumarianos (rédacteur du "Philippoupolis"), m'ont conseillé de m'envoyer à Athènes pour m'enrôler dans l'armée. Mais avant de partir, je songeai que, quoique sujet Ottoman (G. Ioannou est originaire de Démotica, vilayet d'Andrinople), j'avais besoin d'un passeport Rouméliote pour pouvoir voyager. mais le Consul de Grèce consentit à délivrer le 15 Avril un passeport Grec, dans lequel Serrès était représenté comme mon domicile, et qu'ils me remirent, en me remettant en même temps £T. 5, deux quarts de livre Turque, et 10 piastres, ce qui, avec le prix du passeport, représentait la somme de £T. 6. J'ôtai par conséquent mon chapeau, je mis un fez, et on me dirigea sur Stanimaka par où je devais fuir. Mais au lieu de fuir, je restai trois à quatre jours à l'hôtel de mon compatriote et cousin, Hadji Nicoly, après quoi je sortais librement et sans crainte.

"'Le premier jour de Pâques je visitai en compagnie de Georges Karna, Mariu, Gotcho, et un bacal dont je ne connais pas le nom, plusieurs cabarets où nous bûmes et nous enivrâmes. J'allai à un cabaret de Balik-Bazar, où nous nous battîmes, et je ne me souviens plus comment la police nous a arrêtés et conduits à la prison. Je fus bien étonné le matin quand je me trouvai en prison. Le couteau dont je me suis servi n'appartient pas à moi.'

"Cette déposition, qui avait été signée par le prisonnier, produisit sur toute l'assistance une très-pénible impression. Les accusations que le prisonnier portait contre l'Archevêque et les Notables Grecs de notre ville étaient si graves, qu'on s'attendait généralement le lendemain, Mardi, à une protestation de leur part. Mais rien n'ayant été présenté, le Tribunal a continué le débat, et après le discours du Procureur Départemental, M. Soczinsky, et des Avocats des deux accusés, il a rendu son Jugement en condamnant G. Ioannou à quatre mois et M. Iconomopoulo à un mois de prison.

"Au moment où le Président du Tribunal—qui est composé de deux Bulgares et un Grec—allait donner lecture du Jugement, un autre scandal a marqué ce procès, si riche en enseignements: l'un des accusés, M. Iconomopoulo, avait disparu, grâce à son avocat, un jeune Grec qui a fait ses études à Athènes. Le Président ayant menacé ce trop complaisant avocat de l'exclure du Tribunal s'il ne faisait pas comparaître son client, M. Iconomopoulo s'est présenté hier, Mercredi, pour faire ses excuses et

donner une caution jusqu'au jour où la Cour Supérieure se prononcera dans l'appel qu'il fera contre le Jugement du Tribunal Départemental."

Quant à l'assertion que M. le Préfet de Police, qui est un des officiers Russes les plus distingués de notre corps de gendarmerie, aurait déposé de faux témoignages, c'est une invention digne peut-être du "Philippopoulis," mais indigne d'un document destiné aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances.

Cavacly n'étant pas le chef-lieu d'un arrondissement militaire, il n'y a pas de miliciens Bulgares, et l'assertion que toutes les vignes ont été détruites n'a pas plus de fondement que l'accusation que l'on impose aux habitants des obligations qui incombent exclusivement au Gouvernement. Le Député de Cavacly, qui est un Grec, n'a jamais fait dans la Chambre la moindre allusion à ces prétendus abus. Est-ce parce qu'il n'y croit pas? Est-ce parce qu'il méconnaît les premiers éléments de son devoir envers ses commettants? Dans tous les cas, on trouvera étrange que des abus, dont personne n'a soufflé mot devant l'autorité capable de les faire vérifier et réprimer, figurent dans un document destiné à une Commission qui n'a aucun moyen de contrôler les informations qui y sont contenues.

Un réquisitoire des Grecs Roumeliotes qui ne contiendrait aucune allusion à la Circulaire Matefsky, serait un document incomplet. Aussi ne sommes-nous du tout étonnés de voir que les auteurs du Mémoire ont gardé pour la fin de leur diatribe la fameuse missive de l'ex-écrivain public. Nous avons dit, et nous le répétons, que l'intolérance dont ce membre obscure de la nation Bulgare a fait preuve est en tout point comparable à l'intolérance dont des hommes distingués comme le prédicateur de Cour Stoiger et le Professeur Treitschke ont dernièrement fait preuve en Allemagne dans leur campagne contre les Juifs. Le résultat de la Circulaire a été tout aussi minime que le résultat de la Judenhetze en Allemagne. Nous défions l'organe de nos Pan-Hellènes de nous prouver qu'il y a une seule boutique Grecque qui se soit fermée en conséquence de cette Circulaire, et nous nous faisons fort en même temps de citer les noms de plusieurs Grecs qui ont dernièrement encore ouvert de nouvelles boutiques dans cette province. La confiance dont ces Grecs font preuve, et l'exemple qu'ils donnent à leurs nombreux compatriotes qui nous viennent chaque jour chercher fortune dans notre pays, fournissent la meilleure réfutation des indignes inventions et des noires calomnies que les meneurs du mouvement Pan-Hellène ne cessent de fabriquer contre une race dont ils redoutent la rivalité.

No. 199.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 313.) *Philippopoli, July 31, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an official Table, which has been published in the "Maritza," showing the proportion of the various nationalities in the population of Eastern Roumelia.

The total figures are as follows:—

Bulgarians	573,231
Turks	174,759
Greeks	42,516
Gypsies	19,521
Jews	4,177
Armenians	1,306

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Extract from the "Maritza" of July 27, 1880.

STATISTIQUE Officielle de la Population dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Département de Philippopoli.

No. d'ordre	Noms des Cantons.	Le Nombre des Maisons.	Le Nombre des Familles.	Le Total des Habitants.	Bulgares.		Turcs.		Grecs.		Arméniens.		Israélites.		Des Etrangers Bulgares.				Des Etrangers Grecs.			
					Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Le nombre des familles.	Le total des habitants.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Le nombre des familles.	Le total des habitants.
	Ville de Philippopoli	5,749	8,687	21,053	5,150	5,393	2,788	2,733	2,331	2,324	103	..	577	557	95	74	19	169	..	..	..	..
1	Canton de Philippopoli	2,510	2,935	11,245	2,515	2,393	1,179	1,149	1,359	1,359	..	..	..	..	95	114	19	209	..	..	..	..
2	" d'Orelié-Hissa (Aoriz-Tepé)	2,167	2,500	9,839	10,516	10,229	854	734	264	264	..	..	..	..	113	114	19	227	..	..	..	..
3	" de Karlova	10,610	10,216	43,555	18,871	17,478	3,753	3,781	575	515	..	..	..	..	273	317	44	634	..	..	..	..
4	" de Semen-Gora (Kesendjé-Dagh)	5,576	6,880	30,217	11,899	11,995	2,909	2,641	538	508	..	..	37	21	58	102	44	160	..	..	..	..
5	" de Kouroudi	6,253	7,455	33,372	9,202	8,772	2,251	2,215	217	219	..	..	..	..	112	102	..	214	..	..	..	..
6	" de Kostentchko	3,505	3,946	19,356	4,963	4,583	3,644	3,644	38	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		36,307	42,539	167,095	63,110	60,509	18,321	17,895	5,443	5,427	103	..	614	581	327	339	63	666	..	..	..	..

Département de Stara-Zagora (Eski-Zaghra).

1	Canton d'Eski-Zaghra	3,619	5,192	19,164	8,232	10,932	2,529	2,713	..	..	131	135	..	..	123	133	19	256	403	537	730	..	..	..
2	" de Tchirpan	3,575	4,419	16,695	6,446	10,249	2,557	2,642	..	..	255	212	..	..	3	3	2	5	214	311	424	..	..	..
3	" d'Ouzoun-Kuprou	3,019	3,634	16,995	11,295	10,995	2,879	2,908	11	13	441	396	..	..	72	52	2	124	215	265	371	..	..	..
4	" de Kazanlik	5,744	10,858	44,303	14,960	14,401	3,024	3,024	6	9	696	696	..	..	336	345	39	681	29	41	70	..	..	..
		20,957	40,013	165,960	62,877	61,289	13,972	13,972	17	15	1,472	1,439	..	..	196	245	63	308	833	2,003	1,804	..	..	..

Département de Hasskeuy.

..	Canton de Hasskeuy	3,289	11,676	49,170	16,067	15,688	5,489	5,489	1	1	77	73	..	..	121	133	19	252	264	250	..	..	..	..
..	" de Haremlik	2,951	4,578	20,314	13,067	11,012	5,489	5,489	1	1	458	458	..	..	..	..	2	2	120	132	..	..	..	..
..	" de Hadji-Eglee	5,112	5,117	20,236	9,854	8,903	2,960	2,960	..	..	1,000	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	..	..	..
..	" de Kirdjali	..	5,062	26,542	67	88	121	121	..	..	121	121	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		26,457	26,433	136,262	35,006	36,691	14,059	14,059	2	2	1,656	1,652	..	..	121	133	21	254	387	388	..	..	..	..

Département de Slivno.

No. d'ordre.	Noms des Cantons.	Le Nombre des Maisons.	Le Nombre des Familles.	Le Nombre des Habitants.	Bulgares.		Turcs.		Grecs.		Des Etrangers Bulgares.				Des Etrangers Grecs.			
					Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.
1	Canton de Slivno ..	5,665	6,891	30,397	11,607	11,237	2,784	2,656	238	222	457	229	10	10	..	..	..	..
2	„ de Jarnikoj ..	5,139	5,534	25,199	10,411	10,538	899	810	417	402	269	97	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	„ de Kremikli ..	3,834	6,981	28,567	7,864	7,663	686	571	193	220	65	65	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	„ de Kiuk-Aptich ..	4,014	5,641	25,011	10,374	10,174	1,134	1,105	134	134	45	45	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	„ de Kiosi ..	5,018	5,765	19,481	8,149	8,133	930	904	198	192	46	46	..	..	..	..	..	..
		23,670	28,812	128,655	48,535	47,770	6,433	6,084	1,061	1,070	882	482	10	10	..	..	..	..

Département de Tatar-Bazardjik.

No. d'ordre.	Noms des Cantons.	Le Nombre des Maisons.	Le Nombre des Familles.	Le Nombre des Habitants.	Bulgares.		Turcs.		Grecs.		Des Etrangers Bulgares.				Des Etrangers Grecs.			
					Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.
1	Canton de Tatar-Bazardjik ..	5,695	8,153	38,748	15,097	14,257	1,609	1,615	279	245	645	681	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	„ d'Ortakeui ..	3,926	4,968	22,769	10,533	10,033	367	500	45	44	30	44	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	„ de Rechtéra ..	4,513	5,101	23,371	7,904	7,388	4,063	3,878	64	540	134	540	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	„ de Rassovitchi (Ot-tonk-Bey) ..	4,015	4,753	21,315	10,398	10,045	432	354	16	31	57	31	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	„ de Koprivchtitza ..	1,251	2,830	8,520	4,158	4,072	295	181	39	63	32	63	..	..	..	..	..	..
		30,339	25,217	135,065	47,530	47,930	7,573	7,226	494	696	950	696	..	..	..	..	..	..

Département de Bourgas.

No. d'ordre.	Noms des Cantons.	Le Nombre des Maisons.	Le Nombre des Familles.	Le Nombre des Habitants.	Bulgares.		Turcs.		Grecs.		Des Etrangers Bulgares.				Des Etrangers Grecs.			
					Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.	Hommes.	Femmes.	Les soldats de Bataillon.	Les soldats de Tirailleurs.
1	Canton de Bourgas ..	4,872	5,834	26,693	7,606	7,511	1,962	1,921	699	2,026	2,123	2,026	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	„ de Akbès-Mussulmane ..	2,936	3,750	17,758	1,669	1,664	2,705	2,687	175	355	359	355	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	„ de Aitos ..	2,047	2,566	12,181	2,763	2,716	5,846	5,763	205	470	474	470	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	„ Karnobad ..	3,796	5,117	30,240	6,562	6,452	4,832	4,122	466	1,031	1,188	1,031	..	..	..	..	..	..
		13,651	16,267	86,846	18,601	18,343	15,357	13,504	1,535	3,882	4,149	3,882	..	..	..	..	..	..

Résumé.

Bulgares.	Turcs.	Grecs.	Etrangers.	Ensemble.
573,231	174,759	42,516	19,324	4,173	1,306

Toute la population de la Roumélie Orientale s'élève à 815,513 âmes, savoir

Pour copie et traduction conforme :
Le Chef de la Chancellerie de la Direction de l'Intérieur :
(Signé) P. DIMITROFF.

No. 200.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 314.)

Philippopoli, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to embody in my despatch to your Lordship No. 311 of the 17th instant an analysis of the Report of the Commission appointed by the Governor-General to verify on the spot the crimes and violence lately committed by the militia in the district of Kirdjali. I will now venture to submit to your Lordship some remarks respecting the measures which have been taken for the punishment of the thirty-three culprits handed over to the judicial authorities by the Commission. Among this number, as I have already had the honour to announce to your Lordship, there were five officers (four Russians, and one Bulgarian). Of the remainder, two were soldiers, the other twenty-six being Bulgarian villagers.

It appears that when the question arose as to the manner in which the trial of the seven militiamen should be conducted, General Streeker urged that, as no Military Code had as yet been drawn up for the province, the accused should be handed over to the Civil Tribunals, totally neglecting to point out that by Article 67 of the Annex to Chapter XII of the Organic Statute it is prescribed that "Il sera fait usage jusqu'à nouvel ordre dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie du Code Pénal Militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane."

Shortly after my arrival here I unofficially drew the attention of the Governor-General to this provision, observing that I failed to see how the Civil Courts, unless very exceptionally constituted, could deal with cases of military negligence, or could award a punishment consistent with the gravity of such an offence. I further considered it my duty to represent most earnestly to his Excellency the very painful impression which would be produced on Europe if the crimes which had been committed remained unpunished. I likewise spoke to General Streeker in the same sense.

I will now proceed to relate to your Lordship the course which has been finally pursued by the authorities in this matter.

On the 15th June I was informed that Captains Timofief and Nicolaeff and Lieutenant Enguelgard had been dismissed from the militia, but it would seem that in the note from the Governor-General reporting this fact to the Russian Consulate in this town, no representations were addressed to the Russian military authorities with regard to the conduct of these officers, nor was any appeal made for their punishment. Moreover, no "Prekaz" (Decree) was inserted in the papers officially announcing their dismissal. On the contrary, it would almost appear that every care was taken not to give publicity to the disgrace which had fallen on these officers. All three remained in the province, wearing Russian uniforms, two of them only leaving the other day, the third being at this moment at Philippopoli.

Captain Yacheroff, who is also a Russian officer, and who commanded the detachment of militia, has been even more leniently treated. He has been allowed to publish a separate Report in defence of his conduct, and to retain his commission. He has, moreover, been granted two months' leave, of which he availed himself yesterday by starting for Russia.

Meanwhile, the fifth officer, Lieutenant Dobreff, a Bulgarian, proved by the Commission to have mortally wounded in cold blood a disarmed young Turk, has been under arrest at Haskeui, where an inquiry respecting his conduct has been going on under the Presidency of Prince Thurn and Taxis, an Austrian, lately appointed Procureur here. For the information of your Lordship, I will here repeat the evidence against this officer contained in the Report of the Commission. The principal witness in the case was a Dr. Vaume, who was in the village of Hodja Kuhla at the time of the incident, and who was informed by one of the soldiers that a Turk had been killed by an officer, and that his body had been concealed in the house in which he (Dr. Vaume) had passed the night. On visiting the said house Dr. Vaume found stains of blood in every direction, but no body. Three days later, on again visiting the village, he was taken to the same house, where a young Turk lay wounded with his head cut open, and he was informed that this was the same Turk of whom the soldiers had previously spoken.

On inquiring who had committed the outrage, he was told that it was Lieutenant Dobreff. On being afterwards cross-examined on the subject, Lieutenant Dobreff denied flatly that he had ever been near the village, it being conclusively proved by several witnesses that he had been there at the time of the outrage. The parents of the boy likewise stated that it was Lieutenant Dobreff who had dealt the blow. I may add that Lieutenant Dobreff was also accused of having set fire to some stabling, the principal witness against him in this case being his superior officer, Captain Yacheroff, who himself

heard him give the order to fire the buildings. Notwithstanding, however, this conclusive evidence, Lieutenant Dobreff has been acquitted on the ground that the boy had not recognized this officer when the latter was brought to his bedside a few days before his death. Lieutenant Dobreff has consequently been released from arrest.

Thus the five officers on whom the responsibility for the outrages committed entirely falls may be said to have escaped punishment, for it can hardly be held that the mere dismissal of the three Russian officers from the militia was, in any sense, an adequate punishment for the offences with which they are charged. I may also add that the acquittal of Lieutenant Dobreff and Captain Yacheroff are in manifest opposition to the finding of the Report of the Commission, which clearly sets forth the grave misconduct of both of these officers. It should, moreover, be borne in mind that their acquittal is totally at variance with the decision of their superior officers, Colonel Toustain, Chief of the Staff, and Colonel Berthwick, Inspector of Gendarmerie, both of whom took part in the Commission and signed the Report.

It is right, nevertheless, to mention that the fact of four out of the five officers being Russian subjects has tended considerably to impede the course of justice In virtue of Article 12 of the Annex to Chapter XII of the Organic Statute these officers, together with a number of others, entered into a contract to serve in the Eastern Roumelian militia for a period of three years. No complication, however, would have probably arisen as to the trial of these officers by a local military Board were the privilege to retain their rank in the Russian army not accorded to all officers seeking military service in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. It may, perhaps, be held with some reason that Eastern Roumelia, being a vassal province of the Ottoman Empire, and the privilege granted to foreign subjects under the Capitulations not extending, it would seem (as far as military offences are concerned), to those entering the military service of the Porte, officers of foreign nationality in the Roumelian militia have no proper right to seek the protection of their Governments when accused of a military offence. But I believe I am not mistaken in saying that no Russian subject can legally renounce his allegiance without the consent of the Emperor, a consent rarely given; so that it may be said that all Russian officers enlisting abroad are still presumed to be subject to the authority, and therefore, if thought necessary, are under the protection of their Government. Had, however, the Governor-General insisted on the immediate trial of these officers by Court-martial, and had one or two Russian officers of the local militia been chosen among the members appointed to sit upon it, it is not impossible that the Russian Government, considering the gravity of the accusations, and the painful impression which any partiality in the punishment of the guilty would produce, might have allowed matters to take their course. As it was, the hesitation on the part of the Governor-General and General Strecker no doubt enabled Captain Eck, Russian Military Attaché here, to suggest a compromise by which the reputation in Eastern Roumelia of the Russian army might not be too rudely shaken.

Even in this case, justice might still have been outwardly respected, had the authorities formally surrendered the four Russian officers to the Russian military Tribunals for trial and punishment, and proceeded to try Lieutenant Dobreff by Court-martial.

As I have already shown, neither of these courses has been pursued. It is consequently much to be feared that the surprisingly lenient treatment of those who have been proved to be responsible for the wanton acts lately committed will tend to encourage similar violence should the militia be called upon hereafter to restore order in other districts.

As regards the twenty-six peasants, I am informed that nineteen have been tried, the severest sentence awarded being three years' imprisonment.

The cases of the two soldiers and five other graver cases are still pending.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received a French translation of the finding of the Court at Haskeui, which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

Your Lordship will observe that the severest sentence passed is three months' imprisonment, not three years, as I was incorrectly informed, and that the two soldiers have been tried and acquitted.

The messenger being on the point of starting, I have only had time to read this document very hurriedly.

I have been surprised, however, to notice that, while very properly regretting that the instigators of the insurrection have not been brought to justice, Prince Thurn and Taxis does not express equal regret that the criminals who committed the graver excesses in Kirdjali should remain totally unpunished.

A. C. S.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Trial of Kirdjali Offenders.—Finding of Haskeui Court.

(Traduction.)

A. M. le Procureur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, Plovdiv.

M. le Procureur-Général,

PAR l'Ordre No. 337 du 2 Juin de l'année courante il m'a été enjoint de me rendre à Haskeui pour y exercer des fonctions de Ministère Public vis-à-vis de personnes mises sous jugement par la Commission d'Enquête sur les événements de Kirdjaly.

Ayant terminé la plus grande partie de cette mission j'adresse le Rapport suivant:

Rapport.

D'après le Rapport de la susdite Commission 32 personnes sont accusées, dont 3 officiers Russes, 1 officier Bulgare, 2 soldats Bulgares, et 26 civils.

Pour ce qui a rapport aux 3 officiers Russes, ceux-ci ayant été exclus du service de la milice par ordonnance de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, et livrés au Consulat Général de Russie qui doit poursuivre leur jugement, la justice du pays n'avait pas à s'occuper de leurs accusations. En conséquence, il ne reste que 29 personnes accusées, sur lesquelles je rapporte comme suit:—

1. L'affaire du Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff était parfaitement instruite, cependant le résultat de cette instruction n'était pas de nature à mettre Dobreff sous jugement. C'est pourquoi, d'accord avec le Procureur-Général, la poursuite judiciaire de cette personne a été abandonnée, dont communication a été faite au Juge d'Instruction par la lettre suivante:—

"M. le Juge d'Instruction près le Tribunal Criminel de Haskeui,

"La Commission d'Enquête sur les événements de Kirdjaly accuse le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff: (1) d'avoir blessé la tête d'un jeune Turc de Kodja-Kichla; (2) d'avoir mis le feu à un grenier à Karamoussalar. Dans l'instruction judiciaire de Dobreff, s'ajoute aussi l'accusation d'enlèvement de bestiaux à Ottaklar.

"Ad. 1. Au sujet de la première accusation pour la blessure faite au jeune Turc, il n'a point été prouvé que le coupable fut le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff et il ne peut même pas être soupçonné, vu qu'à la confrontation le blessé Ahmed Moustapha a clairement et nettement déclaré que ce n'est pas Dobreff qui l'a blessé. La dernière circonstance de soupçon, c'est-à-dire la déposition du Dr. Vanne, qui dit avoir entendu tenir ce propos par son ex-ordonnance, a été complètement réfutée par ce même ordonnance, qui, à la confrontation avec le docteur, a déclaré ne rien savoir au sujet de cette affaire, et n'en avoir jamais parlé.

"Ad. 2. Pour ce qui concerne la seconde, le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff non-seulement la reconnait, mais à l'instant même il l'a communiquée à son chef militaire, le Capitaine Yacheroff. Il est prouvé que le grenier, auquel il a mis feu, de passage avec son détachement, était plein de cartouches et que Dobreff, en vertu de l'ordre qu'il a reçu de ramasser les armes et les munitions, n'en a ordonné l'incendie que parce qu'il lui était impossible d'emporter ces objets dangereux. Par conséquent ceci étant un acte militaire, il ne peut être jugé sous forme de discipline que par ses chefs militaires. En outre, il manque les conditions nécessaires qui peuvent entraîner les pénalités prévues par la loi, vu qu'il n'y a pas lieu de parler de préméditation. Il est également prouvé que le grenier était de valeur insignifiante et qu'il était situé à environ trois cents pas du village.

"Ad. 3. Que Dobreff seul ou avec d'autres ait enlevé du bétail ceci n'est certifié par personne et l'instruction y afférente ne donne point lieu de pareil soupçon sur lui. Des dispositions de quelques témoins il s'ensuit seulement que quelques paysans du village Ottaklar, de retour chez eux libérés de prison, ont ouï dire par leurs enfants que des têtes de bœufs ou de vaches ont été trouvées dans leur village et que ces bestiaux auraient été tués par les soldats.

"Le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff déclare lui-même que par ordre du Lieutenant Nicolaeff il a acheté pour l'approvisionnement des troupes quatre bœufs du village Ottaklar dont il a payé le montant de £ T. 20 au Moukhtar Redjeb-Aga, ce qui a été certifié par cinq témoins. Mais toutefois Redjeb a déclaré n'avoir rien vendu ni avoir reçu de l'argent. En conséquence, la déposition de Redjeb-Aga perd sa valeur et personne n'a déclaré que le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff ait enlevé de force du bétail soit pour l'armée soit pour son compte personnel.

"Il n'y a donc point de motifs de poursuivre le Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff des délits criminels qu'on lui attribue. Voilà pourquoi l'instruction commencée contre lui doit être abandonnée.

"Je laisse à vous, M. le Juge d'Instruction, le soin de communiquer au Sous-Lieutenant Dobreff ainsi qu'au Commandant de la droujina dans laquelle il est incorporé que l'instruction de son affaire a été abandonnée et lui en faire part des motifs.

"L'Avocat-Général,
(Signé) "Docteur Taxis.

"*Haskeui, le 6 Juillet*, 1880."

2. Le Rapport de la Commission accuse le soldat Dimitri Letkoff, enregistré sous No. 61, pour viol. Cependant dans les listes des deux droujinas il n'existe point de soldat avec pareil nom, mais d'après ce qu'on voit dans les documents fournis au Juge d'Instruction pour l'enquête du susdit No. 61, un certain Dimitri Petkoff est accusé non pas pour viol mais pour enlèvement de bestiaux. De pareil nom non plus n'a été trouvé parmi les soldats des deux droujinas envoyées pour mettre l'ordre dans le Kirdjaly. Donc l'accusation reste sans suite.

3. Le second soldat, le nommé Dimitri Dimtchoff, accusé par la Commission d'avoir violé Hasser Mehmedov, du village Tépédjik, a été mis sous jugement par le Procureur parce que le témoin, le Lieutenant Réout, a dit devant le Juge d'Instruction avoir saisi Dimtchoff devant la porte ou près de la porte (il ne se le rappelle pas bien) de la Turque déshonorée, qu'il avait entendue crier dans la rue. Cependant le Tribunal dans sa séance ouverte, après avoir fait prêter serment par le Lieutenant Réout, l'a invité à renouveler les dépositions. Celui-ci répondit qu'il avait saisi Dimtchoff dans la rue, et non près de la porte de la Turque, comme il l'avait dit au Juge d'Instruction, et qu'il l'avait mis aux arrêts parce qu'il était défendu aux soldats de se promener dans les rues sans autorisation. La Turque, interrogé si elle connait celui qui l'a violée, et si c'est bien Dimitri Dimtchoff qui est le coupable, répondit que non-seulement elle ne le reconnait pas, mais que les coupables étaient au nombre de quatre, et non un seul suivant la déclaration de Réout, et que ces quatre individus sont sortis de la maison avant elle et non après elle. Le Tribunal, par suite des contradictions ci-dessus et à cause du manque de preuves positives, à déclaré Dimitri Dimtchoff innocent et l'a libéré de la prison, où il était incarcéré depuis déjà quatre mois.

4. Stavri Stoïtchoff et Mihal Dimitroff sont accusés par la Commission comme incendiaires.

Il appert clairement de l'instruction que Stavri Stoïtchoff était éloigné de Mihal Dimitroff lorsque ce dernier battait le briquet près d'un grenier de Ottaklar, et Stavri lui a même dit que ce n'était pas une bonne chose, mais que c'était honteux et que même il péchait. Donc il n'y avait point de raisons de poursuivre plus longtemps le susdit Stavri Stoïtchoff, et en conséquence l'affaire a été abandonnée, et Stoïtchoff a été libéré de la prison où il avait passé quelques mois.

5. Pour le deuxième accusé d'incendie, le nommé Mihal Dimitroff, il a été prouvé que, lorsque déjà quelques maisons brûlaient dans Ottaklar, ce Dimitroff se trouvait à côté d'un grenier sis au côté opposé de l'incendie, lequel grenier ne brûlait pas et que jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est il reste intact. Il y battait encore le briquet lorsque la patrouille l'a saisi et arrêté. Celui-ci a été livré à la justice. Dans la délibération publique sur cette accusation, le Tribunal n'a pu rien découvrir et Dimitroff se justifiait disant que c'est pour allumer sa cigarette qu'il avait battu le briquet. Il n'a pas été prouvé qu'il eit mis feu aux maisons brûlées dans ce village, et comme le Code Ottoman ne prévoit aucune pénalité pour des tentatives en général et pour tentatives d'incendie en particulier, Mihal Dimitroff ne pouvait pas être condamné pour avoir essayé de mettre le feu au grenier auprès duquel il avait battu le briquet, et il ne pouvait être condamné, d'après l'Article 248 du Code Pénal que pour négligence, c'est-à-dire d'avoir battu le briquet auprès de bâtiments, quoique le grenier n'ait pas pris feu. La plus grande pénalité pour ce délit prévue par l'Article précité est de huit jours d'emprisonnement, et l'accusé avait déjà passé plusieurs mois.

6 et 7. Tcholoban Kirko et Jeko Taneff ont été accusés par la Commission pour enlèvement de bestiaux, parce que Ahmed Halil Moustapholf a dit qu'il avait perdu deux bœufs à Tandadjik, que ces bœufs étaient employés au transport d'objets militaires jusqu'à Kéréler, et qu'un de ses voisins lui avait dit que parmi les charretiers se trouvaient Tcholoban Kirko et Jeko.

Vu qu'il n'y a point d'autres motifs soupçonnants contre ces individus et que les bœufs ont été plus tard rendus à Ahmet par l'armée, il n'y avait plus lieu de poursuivre Kirko et Jeko, et j'ai chargé le Juge d'Instruction d'arrêter le procès.

8. Gotcho Kristodoloff, accusé par la Commission pour vol.

Après les instructions les plus suivies et les plus approfondies sur l'affaire de Gotcho, le Juge d'Instruction à adressé au Procureur-Général un Rapport dans lequel il portait à sa connaissance qu'il était impossible de prouver que Gotcho ait commis quelques crimes dans le Kirdjaly.

A la suite de ce Rapport le Procureur-Général a ordonné par écrit au Juge d'Instruction, avant notre arrivée à Haskeui, de libérer le susdit Gotcho. Donc, je n'ai pas eu à continuer l'affaire No. 53.

9. Abadji Deltcho Petkoff, de Tékékeui, livré entre les mains de la justice pour avoir volé une bufflesse et une vache qu'il avait trouvées sans propriétaire aux environs d'Ottaklar, et qu'il a conduites à Ozoun-djova a été condamné par le Tribunal de Haskeui, en vertu de l'Article 224 du Code Pénal Ottoman, à deux mois de prison.

10. Zapren Karadjov, du village Golemo-Trindjik, est accusé par la Commission pour enlèvement de bestiaux par la seule raison qu'il avait dit à un seul témoin avoir fait passer deux bœufs par la fleuve la Maritza. Mais vu que d'autres circonstances soupçonneuses n'existent pas et le motif susmentionné n'étant pas suffisant pour mettre Zapren sous jugement, j'ai abandonné le procès et ai informé le Juge d'Instruction d'arrêter l'enquête.

11. Ivan Stoytchoff, de Kutelanx-Hassan, accusé par la Commission pour enlèvement de bétail, a été remis à la justice, en vertu de l'instruction judiciaire, pour avoir acheté des effets volés, et conformément au dernier alinéa de l'Article 230 du Code Pénal Ottoman, il a été condamné à quatorze jours d'emprisonnement et au paiement des seize chèvres au Tribunal.

12, Pannyot Groseff; 13, Mito Tontcheff; 14, Athanase Kalaïdji; 15, Roussé Petkoff; 16, Todor Arabadji; 17, Mihal Vattchoff; 18, Lavtcho Stoeff; accusés par la Commission pour enlèvement de bestiaux, No. 56 du dossier. D'après le résultat obtenu par l'instruction judiciaire ils ont été mis sous jugement pour avoir acheté du bétail qu'ils savaient dûment avoir été volé, et conformément au dernier alinéa de l'Article 230 du Code Penal Ottoman ils ont été condamnés à quatorze jours de prison. Comme tout ce bétail a été sequestré par la police et remis aux propriétaires ils n'ont pas été condamnés à payer d'indemnité.

19. Mitro Valtchoff (il faut dire Valtcho Dobreff), également accusé comme le No. 56, ne pouvait pas être condamné, parce qu'il n'existe contre lui d'autre accusation que celle d'avoir gardé chez lui un âne que lui ont remis deux soldats de passage pour Haskeui, avec promesse de le reprendre à leur retour. Ces derniers n'étant pas revenus l'âne a été pris par la police.

20. Dimitri Nicoloff, accusé par la Commission pour enlèvement de bétail, a été mis sous jugement et condamné en vertu du dernier alinéa de l'Article 230 du Code Pénal Ottoman à sept jours de prison pour avoir acheté une bufflesse qu'il savait avoir été volée. La bufflesse a été rendu avant cette condamnation au propriétaire.

Mitio Terzioglou, Dossier No. 58, accusé par la Commission pour vol, a été livré à la justice et condamné à un mois de prison pour avoir fait sortir de l'écurie le cheval de Rustem, d'Ottaklar. Ce cheval a été plus tard rendu au propriétaire.

22, Jélio Mirtchoff; 23, Tanio Glavata; 24, Roussi Panayotoff; 25, Nalbant Ilia; 26, Hadji Lumbri; 27, Anastaso Tokoff, tous accusés par la Commission sous le Dossier No. 58, en vertu d'une requête de la part de quelques Turcs, n'ont pas pu être mis sous jugement, et j'ai chargé le Juge d'Instruction d'arrêter toute poursuite, vu que les plaignants ont déclaré dans l'instruction que la requête avait été faite par une personne qui ne savait point si les accusés sont réellement ceux qui ont commis le crimes dont il est parlé dans cette requête, et que les plaignants mêmes n'ont pas de raisons pour soupçonner les accusés.

28. Ivan Savoff, Dossier 58, est aussi accusé par la Commission pour vol, mais il n'a pas pu être mis sous jugement et la continuation du procès a été arrêté. Le plaignant Hussein Emmeroglou, à déclaré lui-même que l'accusé lui avait dit connaître celui qui lui avait volé les bœufs, mais qu'il ne soupçonne nullement Ivan pour le vol. D'autres circonstances soupçonneuses sur Ivan Savoff n'existent pas.

29. Kristo Yaydjioglou, accusé pour enlèvement de bétail, a été livré à la justice. Cependant, dans la délibération publique du procès il a été prouvé qu'il n'a pas volé, mais qu'il a acheté deux bœufs volés et c'est pourquoi il a été condamné, en vertu du dernier alinéa de l'Article 230 du Code Pénal Ottoman, à quatorze jours de prison. Les bœufs dont il s'agit ont été pris de la police et rendus au propriétaires.

Outre les accusés ci-dessus mentionnés dans le Rapport de la Commission, ont été mis sous jugement en vertu de l'instruction judiciaire pour cause d'enlèvement de bétail dans les environs de Dedéler et ont été condamnés, les personnes suivantes: Ivan Guéorguieff, de Tchamourli, à un mois de prison; Spilko Staykoff, Kosta Raytchoff, de Haskeuï, et Tenio Nalbant, de Tchamourli, en vertu de l'Article 224 du Code Pénal Ottoman, chacun à un mois et demi de prison, et de payer pour le bétail volé une indemnité de 1,440 piastres au Tribunal.

A été condamné conformément aux Articles 230 et 100 du Code Pénal Ottoman le nommé Panayot Vaneff, de Erobas, pour vol, à trois mois de prison.

Ces délits ont été commis par Panayot de la manière suivante:—

En escortant quelques insurgés Turcs, il a enlevé le gilet d'un d'entre eux, dans la poche duquel il a trouvé 42 piastres, qu'il a volées. Il a provoqué de maladie à un second par un coup de crosse. Pour ce qui concerne le gilet et l'argent il a payé au Turc quatre roubles argent.

Enfin, ont été mis sous jugement, mais qui n'ont pas pu être encore condamnés, vu que le jour fixé pour la séance du Tribunal plusieurs des témoins n'ont pas parus, les personnes suivantes:

Badjak Delio, Todio Hieff, et Penio Miteff, pour vol avec violence. En vertu des Articles 228 et 221 du Code Pénal Ottoman et pour avoir frappé, d'après l'Article 179 du même Code: Puis Penio Miteff, Kirko Tontcheff Guéorguieff et Tanio, tous du village Hassobas, pour vol forcé et pour avoir battu un certain Cumber (Turc de Babalar-Yénimahléssi), en vertu des Articles 221 et 191 du Code Pénal Ottoman, ainsi que Tchoban Penioglou Petko, et le Cakal Eftim de Hassobas, pour enlèvement de bétail d'après l'Article 224 du même Code.

La délibération publique sur l'affaire des susdits sept accusés n'a pu avoir lieu, et a dû être remise, vu que des dix-neuf témoins un grand nombre ne s'est pas présentés, ainsi que trois des accusés relâchés sous caution. En général, l'instruction judiciaire contre ces individus a été très-pénible, vu que les témoins sont des paysans de villages distants de six à dix heures de Haskeuï. Si tout cela a duré du 4 Juin au 8 Juillet, 1880, c'est qu'il a fallu le temps nécessaire pour dresser les actes d'accusation et motiver les diverses conclusions pour les ordonnances de non-lieu ainsi que la durée des séances publiques.

De tous les tristes événements de Kirdjaly il reste à dévoiler le plus important. C'est la découverte des principaux provocateurs de tous les malheurs qui ont été la suite de cette instruction, qui par-là ont cherché à se créer un Gouvernement indépendant de celui de la Roumélie Orientale et de celui de l'Empire Ottoman. Poursuivant ce but ils ont non-seulement troublé la tranquillité des habitants paisibles, mais les armes en main, ils ont résisté aux autorités Roumélioles. Ils ont pillé les Caisses du Gouvernement, ont attaqué la milice. D'autres ont fabriqué ou fait fabriquer de faux cachets apposés sur des pétitions pour indemnités des pertes et ont dressés de fausses listes pour ces indemnités. La Commission dans son Rapport fait mention de ces personnes mais elle ne les a pas traduits par devant la justice. Enfin, il serait à désirer que ces individus soient mis sous jugement pour répondre de leurs actes.

Concernant ces méfaits j'ai pris les mesures nécessaires, et j'attends des instructions si c'est moi qui doit continuer ce procès ou si c'est à quelque autre Procureur à s'en charger.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Juillet*, 1880.

L'Avocat-Général de Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) Docteur RUDOLF TAXIS.

Conforme à l'original:
Le Chef de la Chancellerie de la Direction de la Justice,
(Signé) M. P. ICONOMOFF.

No. 201.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 191.) *Therapia, August 1*, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 186 of the 28th instant on the notes of the Porte relating to Bulgaria, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I had a conversation on Friday last with the new Austrian Ambassador, Baron Calice, in which, amongst other matters, the situation in Bulgaria was touched. His Excellency told me that

he had passed through Roumania, where he had seen M. Bratiano, and that he had also passed through Bulgaria, and had had the opportunity of conversing with many persons. He was very emphatic on the fact that Russian officers and Russian functionaries generally are masters of the situation in Bulgaria. The Roumanians felt they were between two Russias, and that this was true, for Russia had greater power in Bulgaria itself than in many Russian provinces. In the latter there was disaffection, Nihilism, and so forth, while in Bulgaria Russian influence was almost unquestioned. Baron Calice seemed convinced that a strong movement was at this moment being carried on by Russian officers. They were even to be seen at all railway-stations—in fact, in every direction. His Excellency then spoke in strong terms of cases which had been brought to his knowledge of the oppression of Mussulmans, and especially of their difficulty in obtaining justice in Courts of Law. Individual cases had been brought to his notice by foreigners.

Baron Calice did not draw any inferences from these facts, but he stated them with some warmth, and his expressions reminded me of the conversation reported by Sir Henry Elliot, in his despatch No. 355 of the 29th June, as having taken place between Baron Haymerle and himself, in which the former spoke so strongly of the apparent proceedings of the Bulgarian and Roumelian Governments.

It is clear that the Austrian Government are considerably exercised at what is going on.

I inclose a copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. Lascelles by the British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk on the alleged military preparations in Bulgaria.

Baron Calice called upon me yesterday again with the object of communicating to me some despatches which he had received, giving further information as to the proceedings of the Unionist party in the Principality and in Eastern Roumelia. I presume that little doubt can be entertained of the activity of this party, but what may still be doubtful is whether any action has really been decided on, or whether preparations are simply made to meet any favourable eventuality which may occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Acting Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, July 27*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Goluptchik" has returned from her voyage to Widdin, and that the "Opit" left yesterday morning for up the river with about 100 soldiers.

I understand that carts have been hired for the transport of 12,000 stand of arms and their ammunition from here to Tirnovo.

A large number of officers have arrived here within the last few days from Varna, besides those coming from Bucharest, &c., but they go away quietly, and it is impossible to get reliable information as to their numbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 202.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 199.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 2*, 1880.

I CONTINUE to receive reports from various quarters, as I had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph yesterday, of the dispatch of troops from the Asiatic provinces to Europe, and there is much evidence to show that the Turks are preparing for war. I am, however, cautious in sending home alarmist reports which are not well authenticated.

Mr. Henderson telegraphs from Alexandretta, on the 1st instant, that all available troops in the Province of Aleppo are being sent to Volo. This information is corroborated by the reports received by M. Tissot from the French Consuls at Aleppo and Jerusalem, who state that the garrisons in these places have been replaced by Redifs, who have been

called out in large numbers, the object being to fill up the European battalions with trained soldiers instead of conscripts.

I inclose, herewith, an extract from a despatch from the British Vice-Consul from the Dardanelles containing information as to the movement of troops in the direction of Thessaly.

With your Lordship's approval, I propose to instruct Captain Swaine to accompany Captain Clarke in the "Falcon" to Salonica and Volo, as he will be better able to obtain reliable information on the spot with regard to the military preparations being made by the Turks than can be procured here.

I have had an opportunity of going through the statement of the Ottoman navy which has been sent to the Admiralty by Captain Clarke, of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," with Woods Bey, who knows every ship.

It is clear that the state of the Turkish navy, both as to men, ships, and material, is very bad indeed, but I am to receive further information. There has been much insubordination too amongst the men. There was a movement for pay amongst them lately, and they were soothed by some promises, but a few days afterwards a large number of those prominent in the movement received the bastinado.

As to torpedoes, the Turks have 250 iron torpedo cases, and the necessary amount of electric batteries, but they are unprovided with chains and anchors for mooring the torpedoes, and have very little wire. Their officers are ignorant of the management of torpedoes. A Commission is sitting twice a-week to arrange torpedo defences, but, as they are going on, months must elapse before much can be done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Goschen.

(Extract.) *Dardanelles, July* 23, 1880.

ABOUT 240 army recruits from the Smyrna district were brought here on the 24th instant, and have been forwarded by sea to Salonica.

On the 25th a further detachment of discharged soldiers were landed from Syria. There were about seventy, and they are being returned to their homes in the eastern parts of Macedonia and Thrace. The conveyance employed is that of the ordinary coasting steamers.

Amongst the men from Syria were thirty-six Albanian artillerymen, young and very able-bodied soldiers, who were dispatched to Salonica on the 27th by the "Ortigia" steamer, belonging to the Italian Company "Florio," on board of the same being Dervish Pasha, the newly-appointed Governor-General of that province, and about 100 Albanians recruited in Constantinople by the Albanian League.

No other war or transport ships have appeared in the Straits since I had last the honour of reporting to Her Majesty's Embassy on the 24th instant.

Apparently no dispositions had been made by the War Department to return to their homes in the Province of Smyrna the 1,300 old soldiers brought from Albania, mentioned in previous despatches. They were Redifs, and stated they had been twelve years with the colours, and had sixty-three months' pay due to them. On being questioned how they liked serving under such conditions, their reply was that they did not serve for pay, but on behalf of their faith.

In the movements of troops to and from European Turkey the difference is marked in the alacrity displayed in sending them thither, when compared with the dilatory measures employed for their dispatch in the opposite direction.

No. 203.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 3, 1880.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a preliminary Report from Colonel Wilson, who has returned from Philippopoli from a visit to the Caza of Nevrokop in Macedonia.

In consequence of the information obtained by him with regard to the alleged detention as prisoners by Moslems in the Nevrokop Caza of women and children who had been carried away from Batak after the massacre at that place, I have communicated with the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs in order that inquiry may be made by the Ottoman authorities as to the fate of any such persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July* 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a short report on my recent visit to Macedonia.

The district passed through, the Caza of Nevrokop, is that to which attention has recently been called by the Rev. Mr. Tonjuroff, a Bulgarian Protestant resident at Philippopoli.

The population is almost entirely Bulgarian, the greater portion being Moslem Bulgars or Pomaks.

I found the district in a much better state than I expected, and certainly not in a condition to justify the sensational letters of Mr. Tonjuroff.

I was particularly struck by the appearance of the country, which is cultivated like a garden, fields of corn and maize stretching up the mountain side to a considerable altitude; and by the apparent freedom of movement enjoyed by the people. Women were working alone in the fields at long distances from the villages, and walking along the roads either singly or in groups of two or three. When a country is in a state of anarchy, it is not usual to find the land well cultivated, or the women moving about without their husbands or brothers.

The evils which the district suffers from are those found in every part of the Turkish Empire, and they fall for the most part on Christian and Moslem alike; the Christian has to complain that his evidence is disregarded in the Law Courts, while the Moslem on the other hand has to supply recruits for the army.

The Christians have, however, suffered much from the manner in which the search for arms has been conducted. The search for arms concealed by a disaffected population is always an unpleasant duty, but the Government appears to have carried it out in a manner which cannot be sufficiently blamed. The work seems to have been left to a certain Mustapha Chavash, sergeant of zaptiehs, and a number of "nefran," or irregular unpaid zaptiehs. These men have been guilty of great cruelty in one case at Dobrenight. Mustapha Chavash went into the church, and having seized the priest, a man of about 50, beat him with a handle of an axe to make him confess where a man said to possess arms was concealed.

I saw and examined the priest, and although it is now two months since the event he walks with great pain, and his back presents a very horrible appearance. In the same village Mustapha Chavash and his men tied a young man up by the hands, held lighted straw under his face, and beat and kicked him on his back and private parts to make him say where arms were concealed. The man was saved and released by an officer of the army who happened to pass. He is still suffering, but will, I believe, eventually recover. Two Protestants at Bansko were badly beaten at the same time for supposed communication with the Bulgarian bands in the mountains, and there have been many beatings for similar reasons in other villages.

I brought these cases to the notice of the Kaïmakam of Nevrokop, and pointed out to him the great responsibility he was incurring in allowing such occurrences to take place in his district. I also spoke to him strongly with reference to the employment of irregular forces for the collection of arms, and the acts of torture of which Mustapha Chavash and his men had been guilty.

The Kaïmakam replied that he had never heard of the occurrences before, but that he had already discharged Mustapha for ill-treating a woman.

Before leaving, I told the Kaïmakam that I considered him responsible for what went on in his district, and that the course of action pursued would probably lead to a repetition of the scenes enacted four years ago in Eastern Roumelia.

Soldiers of the regular army are now quartered in the Nevrokop district, and their conduct appears on the whole to have been very good. I would beg particularly to bring

to your Excellency's notice the fact, that though at the time of the rising about two years ago there was some fighting, and the villagers had deserted their houses and fled to the mountains, no houses or churches were burned except at Bania, and there it is not certain who fired the buildings. The Christian refugees have now nearly all returned, and they have entered into possession of their houses and fields as if nothing had happened.

I visited the prisons at Razlog and Nevrokop without giving notice, and found no Christian prisoners in the first and only a few in the second.

The state of feeling between the Christian and Moslem Bulgarians in several parts of the district leaves much to be desired, and I regret to say there have been many murders of Christians by Moslems and of Moslems by Christians.

On returning to Eastern Roumelia I passed through a district, Dospat, part of which has not yet submitted to the Government of Eastern Roumelia, though assigned to it by the Treaty of Berlin. The district contains nine villages, four or five of which belong to Roumelia, and the remainder to the Vilayet of Salonica. It formerly belonged to the Caza of Tatar Bazardjik, and as the frontier was not marked by the International Boundary Commission, the people profess to entertain some doubts as to the particular Government to which they should pay their taxes, &c. These doubts will, I hope, soon be set at rest by the Turco-Roumelian Commission, which is now engaged in marking the boundary on the ground. The district was formed some months ago into a nahié, and Ahmet Agha, notorious in his participation in the Batak massacre, appointed Mudir. The district is now in the greatest confusion, all traffic through it has been stopped, and it has been the scene of many murders and robberies. I need not point out to your Excellency the possible consequences which may follow from the appointment of a man of Ahmet Aga's known antecedents to an official position on the frontier close to Batak, the scene of his former exploits.

I have reason to believe that the villagers bear no ill-will towards the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and that when the boundary is marked they will at once give in their submission unless they are previously worked upon by agitators.

Whilst at Batak I was informed that some women and children, carried off after the massacre, were still retained as prisoners by Moslems in the Nevrokop Caza; the names of two as given me were as follows:—

Giorghi Petrof's daughter Caterina, at Bowes, in the Check nahié. A Bulgarian doctor, Costadin Djonn, of Zernero of Nevrokop, had seen her; also a Turk had given news of her. Theodora Poposa's sister, Stopheno Poposa, had been seen by a Turk at Bonan of Nevrokop. She is married to Ibrahim, son of Berber Mehemet.

I would venture to express a hope that your Excellency may cause some inquiry to be made through the Porte as to the fate of these women.

I propose forwarding a further report on my arrival at Constantinople, but I thought that your Excellency should at once be informed of the facts with regard to the ill-treatment of the Christians in the Nevrokop district, and the employment of Ahmed Aga.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 204.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to be received by His Majesty the Sultan on Tuesday, the 27th ultimo. His Majesty was a little less constrained in manner than on the previous occasions when he has received me, but he still remained very reticent. Indeed, His Majesty said so little that, as I need not trouble your Lordship with any lengthy statement of my own observations, I have comparatively little to report of this audience.

My object in wishing to see His Majesty personally was to communicate to him the substance of your Lordship's instructions with regard to the guarantee which might be given to the Mussulman proprietors in the territory about to be ceded to Greece, provided the cession were accepted and carried out in a peaceable manner. It appeared to me important that His Majesty should be personally made aware of the suggestion. When I explained the matter to His Majesty, he made no remark beyond asking me whether I had spoken to his Ministers on the subject. As I had had a long interview with Abédine Pasha on this very question some days before, and had informed him that I wished to have an interview with the Sultan on purpose to make this communication to him, I thought

the question of His Majesty rather strange. I was inclined to think that he had not been told what your Lordship had suggested, but His Majesty may simply have wished to refrain from comment.

On my making some remark as to the mission of Colonel Wilson, which mission, like the proposal made now by your Lordship as to Mussulman property, afforded evidence of the impartial desire of Her Majesty's Government to assist in securing the rights and the happiness of minorities, irrespective of their creed or race, in cases where territorial changes took place, His Majesty observed that Mr. Michell had requested him to take charge of one or two Turkish orphan children, victims of the proceedings in Bulgaria, and that he should communicate to me the statements which these children had made. With regard to Colonel Wilson's mission, His Majesty remarked that Abédine Pasha had told him that Colonel Wilson was a just and impartial man.

The conversation then turned to the Greek and Montenegrin questions, and I alluded to the gracious message sent to His Majesty by the Queen. His Majesty observed that he had not yet answered the telegram, as there were one or two points which had to be considered. I have since learnt that the terms of the Sultan's reply were discussed at great length, especially with regard to an allusion to be made to "His Government." I have telegraphed to your Lordship a curious interpretation which the Porte professes to put on the telegram of Her Majesty. They have commented on the circumstance that it alludes not to the decision of the Berlin Conference, but to the execution of the Berlin Treaty, and as the Porte throughout contends that the Powers, if they insist on the execution of the award of the Conference, go beyond the limits of the Treaty, the Turks declare that the Queen has not pressed the Sultan to accept the award, but simply to execute the provisions of the Treaty under which mediation is simply to take place "to facilitate negotiations."

On my touching on the Montenegrin question, His Majesty told me he was very anxious that I should see the Foreign Minister at once on that subject, as he had a communication to make to me. When I returned to the Greek question, and said I had received the Turkish note just as I was about to start for the Palace, and had read it rapidly, His Majesty said he hoped I should study the arguments it contained very carefully, and it was better to defer any conversation on the subject till I had had time to do so. His Majesty was evidently reluctant to embark on any conversation as to either Montenegro or Greece, but I considered it so important that he should hear direct from me what the attitude of the Powers at this moment was, that I thought it right not to let the subject drop. I then proceeded to say that deferring to His Majesty's wishes, I would not discuss the contents of the note, but that speaking on the substance of the question (traitant le fond de la question), I thought it right to let him know in the frankest manner that the concert of the Powers was complete, and their view unanimous; that those would be evil counsellors who would suggest to him that the Porte might succeed in setting some Powers against others; that I had had special opportunities for knowing the phases of the negotiations at all stages, and I could assure him of my own knowledge, as well as on the authority of my Government, that the concert of Europe was a fact. His Majesty replied, not without some emotion, that he hoped this concert of the Powers would not be directed to the ruin of his Empire; to which I replied that it would save his Empire if he would but bow before the wishes of Europe. It was certainly not intended for the ruin of Turkey. It would be dangerous for the existence of his Empire only in the case of the resistance of the Porte. I endeavoured to make His Majesty thoroughly understand the critical nature of the situation. But while dwelling on the dangers of resistance, I did not fail also to point out, on the other hand, that Her Majesty's Government shared the hope expressed in the gracious telegram of Her Majesty, that the Sultan would, by yielding and making the necessary sacrifices, enable England once more to assume an attitude of friendship towards the Turkish Empire, and to assist the Sultan in his efforts to restore prosperity to his people and stability to his throne.

Before the audience terminated I drew His Majesty's attention to two pressing subjects on which I had spoken to his Ministers, namely, the necessity of dealing with the disorders caused by the Kurds in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and to the alleged severe collection of arrears of taxes, even in districts where a famine has prevailed, and has reduced the population to the direst straits. I have reported, in a separate despatch, what His Majesty said relative to the Kurds. As to the arrears of taxes, he took up the matter very warmly. I told him his Ministers had denied any orders having been given to collect such arrears, but that I feared the local authorities in some districts might have done so. His Majesty promised to give the most stringent orders at once. It was even against his religion, he said, to take taxes from people who were starving. His Majesty

showed more animation in speaking of this matter than at any other time when I have been with him. I pointed out to His Majesty that it would be wise to consider the expediency not only of orders forbidding the collection of arrears in famine-stricken districts, but also of instructing the authorities to be lenient in collecting the taxes of the year.

I subsequently spoke to Abédine Pasha on the same subject, and he was very positive that no arrears should be collected, but as to the suggestion of leniency in collecting the taxes of the year where there had been famine, he replied he feared there was famine in the Budget too.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 205.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas reporting that orders had been given to the reservists to hold themselves in readiness, and that some national movement was anticipated. I have telegraphed to Mr. Stephen to inquire into the truth of these reports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Bourgas, July 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the "reservists" in Bulgarian villages have received orders to hold themselves in readiness at a moment's notice to march to any given point with arms, baggage, and three days' rations of bread.

The "reservists" of Bourgas, and, I believe, of other towns, have been informed that it is probable the militia may be sent to the Balkans, and that in such an event the patrol duty, &c., in the town will devolve upon them.

Whatever valid reasons may exist for these orders and measures, there is no doubt that the impression produced by them on the Bulgarian peasantry is that they will soon be called out on active service, and that a "national movement" of some kind, whose scope and details are known only to the initiated, is at hand. This impression is shared by most of the foreigners there who have commercial relations with the interior, and I am privately informed that a German officer on the staff of the militia, writing from Philippopoli to a (German) comrade at Bourgas, strongly advises him to send his wife away from this province for the summer and autumn, as it would appear that serious political disturbances are likely to occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 206.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 206.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney on the action of the Albanian League and military movements in Epirus. I also inclose an extract from a further despatch from him on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Prevesa, July 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of M. Kypriotis' Confidential letter of the 12th instant relating to the Albanian League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Janina, July 12, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that on Friday last the Vali left for Arta, Prevesa, Zamouria, and Avlona. Soon after the Vali's departure the Albanian Committee here received a telegram from Manbey acquainting them that the Sultan was negotiating with the Powers so as to save Epirus by sacrificing Crete, and that should this proposition be not accepted he authorizes the country to resist force. He puts at their disposal all the tithes for the purpose of keeping up a strong military force, and which is to be composed of irregulars and deserters from the army. Besides the secret promise is given to them that they will be provided with the necessary war material and money.

In consequence of this telegram and of repeated meetings, it has been resolved that several members of the League should proceed to Agyrocastro and Zamouria to make the necessary preparations for the defence. They are also meditating to organize a body of 15,000 men to take possession of Arta and Prevesa, and another body of 4,000 men for Zamouria. The centre is to be at Janina. They are also to take in hand the reins of Government. The above Committee also received a telegram from Monastir to the effect that money and warriors were at their disposal there.

The known programme of the Leagues is resistance to the last. At the appearance, however, of an European flag, they will abstain from further action against the cession to Greece, and as for themselves they will ask for autonomy.

From all this it results that the moving hand is the Government. In this critical moment the tour of the Vali appears strange.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 206.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, July 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival from Constantinople, on the 13th instant, of the Turkish steamer "Babel," with about 2,000 recruits, 2,050 (*sic in orig.*) of whom were landed here, the others having left by same steamer for Scutari. On her return voyage the "Babel" will call here for some time-expired men, so that this fresh arrival of troops has not added to the military force in Epirus.

The "Babel," I hear, also brought about 30,000 piastres for the troops. This sum, however, is but a drop in the ocean. The state of the poor Turkish private soldier is heart-rending in the extreme; his uniform has given place to patched-up rags without a patch of colour; his food is scanty and of the very worst. The Turkish officer is not better off. I was told last night that an artillery officer asked a Christian for the sake of God to give him 20 piastres to buy food for his children, who were almost starving.

The hospitals are in a dreadful state; the poor patients are left without food and medicines.

From the above account, your Excellency will perceive what the state of the poor troops is, and unless some means is not quickly found to ameliorate their condition, despair and hunger might force them to shake off all discipline, and what is then to follow is not perhaps too difficult for anybody to imagine.

Nearly all the Albanians have returned to their homes.

A young lad was captured the other day by brigands at Flamboro, a village not very far from Prevesa.

The Vali left for Parga and Margaritu on the 13th instant. His tour, he told me, has been undertaken for the purpose of pacifying the excited spirits.

Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio returned to his post on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 206.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

(Extract.) *Prevesa, July* 24, 1880.

LATE in the evening two companies of infantry from our garrison were dispatched in the Turkish gun-boat to Avlona, where, according to rumour, something serious has occurred.

Selir Habibi, the President of the Albanian Committee at Prevesa, left on the 22nd instant for Argyrocastro, where the great Albanian meeting is to be held.

Two companies of infantry to replace those which were dispatched to Avlona arrived from Arta yesterday.

It appears that the appointment of Vessel Bey to the Mutessariflik of Sinope has somehow displeased the Albanians.

Christian natives continue to cross over to Greece for the purpose of enlisting in the Greek army, and I am informed that both at Caravopirá and at Corfu several Mahommedan Albanians have also enlisted.

Desertions on the part of Turkish soldiers along the border are, I am told, very frequent.

M. Kypriotis reports on the 19th instant that Ghiaghiam Bey Zavachani, an Albanian, and one of the Sultan's body-guard, had arrived at Janina on the 11th instant viâ Mitzovo, where, together with a certain Achmet Bey, he organized a body of men for "the defence."

Soon after the arrival of the former at Janina several meetings took place, after which twelve members of the Albanian Committee left for Argyrocastro, and two more had to leave on the 19th instant. After a short stay in Argyrocastro they are to divide into twos and proceed to various parts of Albania as far as Monastir, for the purpose of procuring the necessary means for the defence.

It is rumoured at Janina that two battalions of Redifs from Tepeleu are going to Janina as volunteers.

No. 207.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 209.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the collective note on the Montenegrin frontier question has been signed by the Ambassadors this morning, and will be placed in the hands of the Porte to-day.

I inclose a copy of the note. The greatest pains have been taken in translating the draft communicated by your Lordship to the respective Cabinets. Instructions had been given to most of my colleagues to keep as strictly to the English text as possible, and yesterday a Conference of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers took place, at which each word of the translation was carefully weighed.

We had previously met on Friday, the 30th ultimo, to exchange views as to the various items of information which had been communicated to us, and several important points were raised in the discussion which ensued as to various eventualities which may occur after our reply will have been received. It is important to realize that the situation has somewhat changed since the note was drafted by your Lordship. At that time the Porte was determined not to entertain the Dulcigno plan, and had informed us that they were preparing to carry out the April Convention.

The next steps were the attempt of the Porte to bring about a compromise under

which part of the Convention of April would have been carried out with part of the Dulcigno plan, but it appears that when it became clear to the Porte that a naval demonstration would take place, they considered whether an acceptance of the Dulcigno plan by the Porte would not avoid such a demonstration.

I have stated to your Lordship in another despatch that the Sultan told me particularly that Abédine Pasha had a communication to make to me about the Montenegrin question.

I presume His Majesty meant that the acceptance of the Dulcigno plan was under consideration, but Abédine Pasha told me that he could not yet make such a statement to me officially. He asked me, however, whether the Powers would be satisfied with such a cession. I gathered from his manner that there was some *arrière-pensée* in his mind, and inferred that this point was whether "cession" would be accepted instead of an actual transfer to Montenegrin hands, that is to say, whether the Porte would be allowed simply to say, "The Montenegrins may have Dulcigno," or whether they would be held to deliver the town and territory safely to the Montenegrin authorities. Remembering what his Excellency had previously said about the Albanians attacking elsewhere, I thought that this case too must be taken into consideration.

I therefore dwelt very strongly on the point that the Powers would not only exact actual delivery, but would hold the Porte responsible for the action of the Albanians on other parts of the Montenegrin frontier.

His Excellency wished to establish that nothing more could be expected than that similar conditions would be made to those accepted in the April Convention, which were very carefully considered by the Porte. But I gave him plainly to understand that the Powers would not be satisfied with such conditions.

Several of my colleagues have told me that Abédine Pasha has held similar language to them. The plan is evidently to attempt to satisfy the Powers by an acceptance of the proposal, which the Albanians are likely to resist.

The question will thereupon arise, What will the Governments decide as to a naval demonstration under the circumstances? The note we have now written only contemplates a demonstration if the Porte were to accept the April Convention and not carry it out in three weeks. But will the demonstration not be necessary if the Dulcigno plan is adopted by the Porte, without its being promptly, indeed immediately, executed? The acceptance of the Dulcigno plan is strongly recommended in the collective note, but no term is fixed within which it must be carried out if accepted.

At our meeting on Friday last it was thought right, with a view of saving time, to call the attention of our Governments to these eventualities, and it was thought desirable to suggest that we should be authorized to settle the conditions with the Porte, which are to regulate the transfer which the Porte in principle accepts. It will be exceedingly important to profit by the experience supplied by the action of the Porte in the case of the April Convention.

I am bound to add that the belief is general at the various Embassies that the Porte really wish to terminate the Montenegrin difficulty, but that they are unable to allay the excitement which they have themselves created. At one moment some of the Ministers were not unwilling that a naval demonstration should take place, so as to show the Albanians that the Porte was itself being coerced; but subsequently it seems to have been thought that the Government would be less able to continue to declare that there was really no concert amongst the Powers, if all their flags had been shown together in the Adriatic.

As to what is thought by the Turkish Government of the actual effect on the Albanians (apart from the general question) of the naval demonstration, it is illustrated by a remark made by the Sultan to Hobart Pasha. His Majesty is reported to have said to the Admiral that he must be fully informed about all new types of ships, and he would be glad to know if the Admiral had heard of any ships having been designed that could ascend mountains, as such ships alone would avail against the Albanians.

In conclusion, it appears to me that the following points will have to be determined:—

When the Porte announces its acceptance of the Dulcigno plan, can a limit of time be fixed within which the transfer must take place?

Can the Ambassadors here be authorized to settle the terms of the transfer?

Will it or will it not be expedient that ships of war should be present to superintend the fulfilment of its promises by the Porte?

What securities must be taken to prevent the Albanians opposing the cession?

What securities ought to be taken to prevent attacks on the Montenegrin frontier by the Albanians elsewhere, as a means of counteracting the cession of Dulcigno?

It is possible, too, that the Prince of Montenegro will refuse to move forward his

troops and occupy Dulcigno on the retirement of the Turkish authorities, unless he receives some kind of protection from the Powers.

I would not have troubled your Lordship in such detail on this question but for the evidence which has been received by most of my colleagues, as well as by myself, that the Turks themselves do not consider it as probable that the transfer of the territory will pass off smoothly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 207.

Note Collective addressed to the Porte. August 3, 1880.

LES Soussignés, Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, de Russie, d'Angleterre, d'Italie, de France, et Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie se sont empressés de transmettre à leurs Gouvernements respectifs la note que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu leur adresser le 15 Juillet dernier en réponse à leur communication identique du 26 Juin. Ils ont le regret de faire savoir à son Excellence Abédine Pasha que leurs Gouvernements ne peuvent accepter comme satisfaisantes les propositions formulées dans cette note.

Les Gouvernements représentés par les Soussignés ont appris que la Porte a envoyé des renforts de troupes et des munitions sur la frontière de Monténégro et ils veulent bien admettre que ces mesures ont été prises par elle dans l'intention d'exécuter fidèlement ses engagements. Ils ne sauraient toutefois se prêter plus longtemps à la continuation du système d'atermoiements qu'elle a suivi jusqu'à présent, et qui a conduit à la situation actuelle, et ils se voient dans la nécessité d'inviter le Gouvernement Ottoman à y mettre fin.

Les Soussignés croient qu'il serait plus conforme aux intérêts de la Porte de donner immédiatement suite à la proposition contenue dans leur note du 26 Juin dernier, relative à la cession du district comprenant Dulcigno et la partie de la rive droite de la Boyana qui s'étend jusqu'à l'embouchure de ce fleuve. Ils recommandent fortement à la Porte d'exécuter cette combinaison qui serait la plus avantageuse pour toutes les parties.

Dans les cas cependant où la Sublime Porte préférerait s'en tenir aux engagements qu'elle a contractés par la Convention du 18 Avril, les Soussignés doivent la prévenir que si, à l'expiration d'un délai de trois semaines, à partir de la présente notification, pleine exécution n'a pas pu être donnée par elle à cette Convention, leurs Gouvernements comptent qu'elle se joindra aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin pour aider le Prince de Monténégro à prendre possession par la force du district de Dulcigno, à l'effet de donner suite à l'autre proposition formulée dans la note du 26 Juin.

Les Soussignés profitent de cette occasion pour renouveler à son Excellence Abédine Pasha les assurances de leur haute considération.

No. 208.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 210. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1880.*

I HAVE received information which makes it almost absolutely certain that the intention of the Porte in bringing forward the Bulgarian question in the notes to which I have alluded in previous despatches is the endeavour to create a difference between the Powers.

Looking to the extraordinary sensitiveness of Russia on the one hand, to the attitude of Austria on the other, also to the undoubted difficulties created by the Governments of Bulgaria and Roumelia by their frequent transgressions of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, the question may soon assume a very difficult aspect, and I have accordingly thought it right to inform your Lordship that apparently there is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Porte to turn these difficulties at once to her advantage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 209.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship, by the last messenger, in my despatch No. 185 of the 27th ultimo, a copy of the reply received from the Porte on the Greek question, but as the note had only reached me an hour or two before, I was unable to add any comments.

I need not tell your Lordship that, during the last week, the meaning of the note and its general bearings on the present situation have been the main topic of conversation in all circles. At first the impression created was that it was more conciliatory than had been expected, but, latterly, interpreted by the evidence which is being collected as to the general attitude of the Porte, the note appears to imply the intention of resistance to the will of Europe unless some concessions are made.

The composition of the note is generally attributed to Musurus Pasha, and it is in perfect accord with the whole of his various conversations with me which I have from time to time reported to your Lordship.

I had some conversation with Abédine Pasha on the note. I drew attention to the passage in which the Sultan is spoken of as Caliph, expressing regret that an appeal should be made to the religious element. I feared this part of the note was rather intended for home consumption than for exportation. The note would be published in the native papers. It was easy to foresee how the allusion to the Caliphate would be regarded by the Mussulman population. (I made a similar remark to Musurus Pasha, stating that I believed it was unprecedented to speak of the Sultan as Caliph in such a document. Musurus Pasha at once replied, "No; the term was used by Sawas Pasha in a note to Sir Henry Layard," thus clearly showing that the use of the term had been very deliberately planned.)

I have on previous occasions called your Lordship's attention to various modes in which preparations were apparently being made to utilize the fanaticism of the Mussulmans, if it should be deemed expedient.

I then pointed out to Abédine Pasha that the note not only said that the Porte would not surrender, but that it was silent on what the Porte would be prepared to yield. The note was simply a *non possumus*. His Excellency replied that if the Porte had been able to form any expectation that the Powers would meet them as to the parts excepted, it would have stated its readiness to yield all the remaining territory, but that it had not wished to commit itself thus far while ignorant as to whether any concessions would be entertained.

I then pressed his Excellency on the several towns and districts which were excepted by the Porte. I gathered from him very distinctly that no great stand would be made about Larissa. A guarantee of Mussulman landed property might go far to smooth over the difficulty there, though the difficulty was great. As to Metzovo also, he appeared to be personally pliant. The whole difficulty, if I rightly appreciate the substance of his Excellency's remarks, lay, in his mind, in Janina and the Tchamour district, but then the Albanian proclivities of Abédine Pasha must never be forgotten, and it is not certain how far his Excellency represents his colleagues on such a question. Still, from all I know, it is Janina which is the great difficulty. It is admitted that the bulk of the population is Greek; it is also admitted that the town is of no great value, but it is equally clear that, from some feeling of sentiment, the *amour propre* of Albania has been roused in this question, and that all argument is impotent to remove the feeling.

The feeling of the Turks about the decision of the Berlin Conference is this:—

Europe has no right to make an actual award. The Treaty stipulates only for mediation to "facilitate negotiations." For these negotiations we are prepared, and we will consider the unanimous wish of Europe as far as we possibly can, but the decision of the Berlin Conference is not a rectification of frontier, but a dismemberment of the Empire.

To the argument, that surely they must be prepared for the award arrived at, as it follows the line of the Protocol in the Berlin Treaty, they reply that it was because the Porte refused to sign a Treaty involving such a line that the provision was not inserted in the Treaty, that they signed the Treaty on the understanding that this arrangement was a wish of the Powers only, and not a decision, and that therefore it was contrary to the Treaty to compel them to accept terms now, the non-insertion of which was the very condition on which their signature was obtained. Further, that even the line of frontier indicated in the Protocol has been extended to their detriment, more territory having been given to the Greeks to the north of the Salambria than was contemplated at Berlin.

The Turks, full of these views, do not feel the Powers have right on their side, a point which cannot be overlooked when an estimate is taken of the chances of their yielding to moral pressure alone.

I am not aware how far the above reasoning, which to the Turks appears absolutely conclusive, has been considered elsewhere. I see in the memorandum furnished on this question by Sir Lintorn Simmons, dated the 30th June, that the General states he had difficulty in making the Turkish Ambassador understand that the cession of Preveza and the country between the present frontier of Greece and the Kalamas had been settled by the terms of the Protocol itself, and was not therefore under the consideration of the Conference. Sir Lintorn Simmons adds that he thinks it quite possible that the question is not understood by the authorities at Constantinople, nor by the Sultan himself.

The Turks certainly deny the position here taken up *in toto*. They contend that no cession was settled by the Protocol, and that by the terms of the Treaty the question was left open; otherwise they would not have signed.

I am bound to point out these facts to your Lordship, as otherwise the whole position taken up by the Porte cannot be rightly understood, nor its bearings on the future relations of the Porte and the various Powers. The Turks consider that in the proceedings which led to the Treaty of Berlin a wish was expressed by Europe to which at the time the Porte declined to assent; that mediation to facilitate negotiations was provided for in the Treaty, and that such mediation was undertaken, or ought to have been undertaken, at Berlin; and that in this mediation, which, according to their view, was open, and by no means subject to the XIIIth Protocol, England and France have thrown their whole weight in favour of an immense gift of Turkish territory to Greece, and have induced the other Powers to follow them. However mistaken, however unjust, such a view may be, it is the universal one held among the Turks, and it has led to an intense feeling of hostility towards England. If it exists more strongly against England than against France, it is partly because Turkey had more confidence in England, and partly because my mission and the initiative taken by the English Government have pointed out England as the Power which has in the main taken the lead.

Friendly representations made by us at the present moment have not much avail except amongst a few enlightened Turks, who thoroughly understand that, notwithstanding the action taken, the attitude of England still remains one which ought to inspire more confidence than that of other Powers who have not been equally active to secure the execution of the Berlin Treaty. As to the actual loss of territory, I need not repeat to your Lordship what I have reported in previous despatches. The Albanian element in the Government and in the *entourage* of the Sultan would accept the whole of the award as regards Thessaly if Janina and the Tchamour district were spared; but it is said that during the last few days the influence of the Albanian element is on the decline.

I have been very anxious to ascertain the real feeling of those who will ultimately determine the action of the Porte as to whether they propose resistance or not. Your Lordship is aware of the military preparations which are being made. I can see no diminution in the activity displayed. I have had the opportunity of conversing with several persons of high position whom I must not name, who have had personal access to the Sultan, and who are themselves warm advocates of submission. They have told me that they could report no favourable symptoms. I have compared my information with that of my colleagues, which I regret to say is in the same direction.

The suicidal folly of resistance seems so apparent, that it may be asked how such resistance can for a moment be contemplated. The answer must mainly be sought in the peculiar situation of the moment, and in the influences which are at present supreme. The Ministers have neither prestige nor courage. I fear they lack the patriotism necessary for signing what might be an arrangement which would leave them unpopular for ever. The Sultan thinks of the danger to which this throne would be exposed if the Albanians were alienated—the Albanians themselves think mainly of themselves. There is no man strong enough or patriotic enough to come forward and cut the knot.

The Sultan and the Porte may drift into resistance, or they may ultimately drift into yielding. It is impossible to measure the force of the various influences at work.

I do not believe that any policy has as yet been actually adopted, and the fear as to the consequences of a collision with Europe may prove stronger than the fear of collision with the Albanians, or with Mussulman feeling. But then the fear of collision with Europe must be kept active and strong. The moment that it is believed that there are reasonable chances of such a collision being avoided, resistance is almost certain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 210.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 703.)

Paris, August 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour, on the 6th instant, to receive the repetition of your Lordship's telegram No. 360 of the preceding evening to Mr. Goschen, authorizing his Excellency, if the Porte undertakes to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement, to agree with the other Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople to stipulate the precise conditions with respect to the mode of transfer by the Ottoman Government of the territories to be ceded.

In this telegram your Lordship had stated to Mr. Goschen that it should be made clear to the Porte that the civil authorities and the military force should not retire from the positions which were to be ceded until those of the Montenegrins were on the spot to replace them.

As, since receiving the repetition of the above-mentioned telegram, I had learnt from other telegrams communicated to me by your Lordship that other Powers have agreed to send similar instructions to their Representatives at Constantinople to those conveyed by your Lordship to Mr. Goschen, I this morning communicated to M. de Freycinet the substance of your telegram No. 360 to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

M. de Freycinet, without a moment's hesitation, begged me to inform your Lordship that he entirely agreed with the instructions to Mr. Goschen, and that (as I forthwith telegraphed to your Lordship) he would at once transmit similar instructions by telegraph to M. Tissot.

I also said to M. de Freycinet that I concluded that he was of opinion that the assurance of the Porte of its intention to carry out the Dulcigno proposal should not at all cause the abandonment of the projected naval demonstration.

His Excellency answered that he was quite of this opinion. He added that he believed that the concert of the Powers in this matter was making a real impression upon the Porte, that he had good hopes that the Porte would be brought to yield to the wishes of the Powers, and that the Montenegrin question would thus be settled amicably.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 211.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 704.)

Paris, August 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1045 of the 4th instant, I have conveyed to M. de Freycinet the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government that his Excellency is now satisfied that in fact there is no difference between the two Governments in regard to the collective note presented to the Porte on the 3rd instant with reference to the Montenegrin question, and in regard to the nature and extent of the proposed demonstration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 212.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 706. Secret.)

Paris, August 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I MUST apologise to your Lordship for troubling you with a few observations with respect to the present policy of the French Government, as represented by M. de Freycinet, in relation to the Eastern question. I am the more desirous of doing so, because I think that it may run the chance of being somewhat misunderstood.

In the first place, I would remark that, in matters of this sort, the particular character of the Minister for Foreign Affairs must be taken into account. M. de Freycinet is certainly not expansive by nature. I have sometimes found him silent or reserved when,

for the better understanding of his policy, a sympathetic explanation of it, given as confidentially as need be, might serve his purpose better.

At the same time, it must be admitted that his position is difficult. The tone of the French press and the situation of France oblige him to keep in the back-ground; and as I have already expressed it to your Lordship, to follow in the wake of the other Powers.

But I have been positively assured by one who is in his confidence, and who has the best means of knowing his real sentiments, that he is perfectly determined to join thoroughly with the other Powers in any step, not leading to war, which may be decided upon in common; that he considers that the only chance of bringing the present critical questions to a pacific and satisfactory conclusion lies in the complete accord and identic action of the Six Powers; and that he believes that, if the concert of those Powers, which is the policy inaugurated by Her Majesty's Government, is kept up, there is reasonable hope that the Sultan may be brought to yield to the united voice of Europe. M. de Freycinet, as at present advised, will take no initiative; he will draw up no collective note; but he will faithfully work to the desired end in concert with the other Powers. Such has his policy been described to me, and I have been further assured that he is above all anxious to act with England, and will do so, as far as he is able consistently with the cautious policy which he believes it to be incumbent on the French Government to pursue.

Still, I do not affirm that influences may not be brought to bear upon him which may make him take up a less negative line. Indeed, I was pleased to find him, yesterday morning, more communicative than on previous occasions. He spontaneously recurred to the attitude of the French press, and spoke with unusual openness, and with an evident feeling of irritation, of the embarrassment which its language was causing him. He instanced the "Temps," with which he was careful to state that he had no influence, although he knew several of the writers in that paper, and he informed me that he had told more than one of them that they and others were favouring exactly what they professed to wish to avoid; that, for instance, by deprecating any action of the French Government in concert with other Powers, which they choose to consider might lead to war, they were likely to bring the Porte to believe that the Powers were not after all agreed in a common course, that the last hope of the Porte was in the division of the Powers, and that if she came, from the inconsiderate language of the French press, to cherish this hope, she would probably go on resisting, and the consequences might well be a war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 213.

Pro-memoria from M. Hengelmüller.—(Received August 10.)

OUR Ambassador in Constantinople has informed us on the 6th instant that the Porte had not yet given an official answer to the Montenegrin collective note, but that she desired to end this affair quickly by the acceptance of the Dulcigno arrangement, and that she had expressed the wish, in order to accelerate matters, to negotiate with one Ambassador in the name of all his colleagues.

Our Ambassador has been authorized, in case the reply of the Porte to the note should be what she has let us expect it, to consult forthwith with his colleagues, and to convene upon the Montenegrin conditions and guarantees in order to ensure the actual surrender of the territory to be ceded within three weeks.

Belgrave Square, August 10, 1880.

No. 214.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10, 12·50 A.M.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

ALL the other Commissioners have their instructions about Albania. They amount to practically nothing beyond a general direction to apply the Project as far as possible, and reserve mountain privileges. I think you had better let me go on at once with the discussion of the subject, as my colleagues are perceptibly cooler than they were on the subject of decentralization, and are getting [group omitted]. I expect I shall get less the longer I wait. I think I can [? get] something not unsatisfactory on the whole now. I shall be glad to hear in reply by telegraph.

No. 215.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10, 12·50 A.M.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880, 9·0 P.M.

THE other Commissioners say the Commission must be dissolved as a matter of course when our discussion of the Project is over. Am I to consent, or ask for an adjournment?

No. 216.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10, 8·53 A.M.)

(No. 126. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 9, 1880, *midnight.*

WHETHER the idea originated here or elsewhere, it is certain that a suggestion to substitute Crete for the proposition of the Berlin Conference is "in the air." I have been sounded upon the point by more than one of my colleagues, perhaps at the instigation of the Russian Foreign Office. At all events, I have been told that the notion would not be displeasing to M. de Giers.

No. 217.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August* 10, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 362.

M. de Freycinet will send instructions to French Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues respecting Austrian proposal for equitable treatment of inhabitants in districts to be ceded to Montenegro.

No. 218.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August* 10, 1880.

CAPTAIN SWAINE reports that no movement of troops nor despatch of war material through Salonica has taken place since the 30th June, consisting of artillery, reported at the same time. Government coal supply is being increased.

He leaves to-morrow for Volo.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 219.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

YOUR No. 42.

You may proceed as you propose in regard to Albania.

No. 220.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

YOUR No. 43.

Her Majesty's Government think it better that the Commission should adjourn, as the Porte, under the Treaty, has a right to consult it at any time before promulgating the Acts, and it would be desirable, under any circumstances, that the Commission should be kept alive until the laws for all the European provinces have been definitively settled and proclaimed.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 429.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 95.

You are authorized to contradict report referred to.

No. 222.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10, 7 P.M.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1880, 1·20 P.M.

A FURTHER change has occurred in Turkish attitude towards Montenegrin question. They send Minister of War and 4,000 men to Scutari at once. He leaves to-morrow. The intention alleged is to carry out the Corti arrangement, if possible. Minister of War will see whether it can be done. If it cannot be done in three weeks, the Porte will accept Duleigno proposal, asking another three weeks for the execution of the latter arrangement. I have this verbally from Minister for Foreign Affairs. We have no answer yet to last note.

No. 223.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 10, 6 P.M.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1880, 12·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 370 and 371, I need not say no proposal has been made or suggested by me to the German Ambassador or any one else. He believes, as I do, that Janina is a bar to peaceful acceptance, and that, except by compromise in that direction, scarcely any hope exists of avoiding a conflict, but he is not entitled to go further.

No. 224.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880.

IN compliance with your request of the 9th, yesterday, I have authorized your Lordship, by telegraph, to discuss with your colleagues the application to Albania of the Projet de Loi drawn up by the Commission, taking into account the modifications which will be necessary to suit the requirements of that district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 225.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880.

I HAVE telegraphed to-day to your Lordship stating that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, an adjournment of the Commission would be preferable to its being dissolved when the discussion of the "Projet de Loi" is concluded.

I have to remind your Lordship that the Porte has the right, under the Treaty of Berlin, to consult the Commission at any time previous to the promulgation of the Acts which have been elaborated, and it is therefore desirable that it should remain in existence until the laws for all the European provinces have been finally decided on and proclaimed by the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 226.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 442.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880.

I HAVE to authorize you to contradict the report which you inform me the Russian Chargé d'Affaires has circulated, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government will probably accept the mandate of coercing the Turks to accept the provisions of the Berlin Conference by a blockade of the Turkish ports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 227.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1105.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 10, 1880.

I SAW the French Ambassador yesterday, and spoke to him upon the subject of the objections made by the French Government to their drafting the reply to the Porte on the Greek frontier question. I recapitulated, but at rather greater length, the observations contained in my despatch to you No. 1087 of the 9th instant.

The French Government had, I said, from the beginning taken a leading part and shown great interest in advocating the claims of Greece to an extension of territory. It was the French Plenipotentiary who had proposed at the Congress at Berlin the general line of frontier which had formed the basis of the subsequent discussions on the subject.

M. Waddington had at one moment seemed disposed to recede somewhat from that line, and had suggested a modification which would have left Janina still in Turkish territory. But this proposal had not had any practical issue, and at the Conference at Berlin, the convocation of which had been settled in deference to the wishes of the French Government, the French Plenipotentiary had presented the line upon which the Powers had agreed.

It had seemed to us, therefore, only respectful to France that at this next stage of the proceedings the French Government should be invited to draw up the reply to the communication which had been received from the Porte. But I thought it a matter of very little importance who actually drew up the form of words in which the reply should be couched.

Her Majesty's Government were aware of the view which M. de Freycinet took of the proposal of the Porte, and of the answer which should be returned to it. He had informed you that he thought it inadmissible, and that he was opinion that the decision come to at the late Berlin Conference ought to be maintained, and that the Powers, having laid down a certain line, should adhere to it.

I was ready, if it was thought better, to undertake the drafting of a note in this sense, and to submit it for the concurrence of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 228.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 237. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegraphic despatch of this day, announcing that the Scutari Committee had rejected the advice of the Albanian Commissioners sent by the Porte to endeavour to induce the North Albanians to accept the April Convention, I have the honour to report that I have been informed that, at the last meeting between the Committee and Mustafa Pasha of Avlona, the Chief Commissioner, the latter, when he had exhausted all the official arguments in his possession for the furtherance of his mission, received the categorical refusal of his advice with an approving "Bravo!"

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 229.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 238. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 27, 1880.*

IZZET PASHA, the Governor-General, has been informed by the Porte that this province has been raised from an eïlayet into a vilayet, and that the districts of Tirana, Cavaja, Pekini, and Durazzo have been formed into a Mutessariflik, with the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor to be at Durazzo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 230.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 240. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, announcing the approaching arrival of a contingent of volunteers from Prisrend, I have the honour to report that this force is said to be composed of about one hundred men from each of the chief districts of the Vilayet of Kossovo, and that it is coming as a sort of pledge to the North Albanians that North-east Albania will assist them with all its strength when the moment of trial arrives.

I have been informed that this contingent has been collected on the urgent solicitations of the Mahommedan members of the Scutari Committee, and that the Christian members were kept in ignorance of the appeal until a favourable reply was returned. Some dissatisfaction has, consequently, been felt by the Roman Catholics, who perceive that the Mahommedans, by seeking to increase the Mussulman element from outside, wish to minimize the influence of the mountain tribes.

It is also feared that the presence here of volunteers from the districts of Ipek and Jacova, which have been in a state of anarchy for the last two years, may act unfavourably on the evil-disposed of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 231.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 241. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 29, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH the proposal for a cession in the direction of Dulcigno has been rejected by the Porte, still, as a proof of the practicability of my suggestion, I venture to

report to your Lordship that a native Christian gentleman, in whom I have every reason to confide, has just returned from a short visit to Dulcigno, and he informs me that, with the exception of a certain Hadji Mehemet Betsy and one or two other persons in the employ of the Turkish Government, all the inhabitants of the place, who are mostly Mahommedans, express themselves as determined to remain neutral and passive, should their town be ceded to the Montenegrins.

They point with considerable derision to the body of about 120 men sent by Scutari and its Committee for the defence of their town, and congratulate themselves that their past experience of the rule of the Montenegrins, and the treatment many of them received at the hands of the Turkish authorities when they were refugees, enables them now to regulate their conduct according to their true interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 232.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 313.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 30, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which, on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 403 of the 22nd instant, I addressed to M. de Giers, transmitting the draft, which Her Majesty's Government propose, of the collective note to the Porte upon the Montenegrin question in reply to the Turkish note of the 15th instant.

I also inclose copy of the reply which I have received from M. de Giers, which will show your Lordship that the Imperial Government agrees to the draft as proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburg, July $\frac{15}{27}$, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit draft of a collective note which Her Majesty's Government propose should be addressed to the Porte in reply to theirs of the $\frac{3rd}{15th}$ instant, respecting the Montenegrin Frontier question, and I have been requested by Lord Granville to express the hope that the Imperial Government will concur in the terms of the proposed draft.

Trusting that your Excellency will enable me to give an early answer to Her Majesty's Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersburg, le $\frac{17}{29}$ Juillet, 1880.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la communication de votre Excellence, en date du $\frac{15}{27}$, à laquelle se trouvait annexée le projet de note des Puissances, en réponse à la note du $\frac{3}{15}$ de ce mois, sur la question de la frontière Monténégrine, et je m'empresse de vous informer, d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, que nous acceptons ce projet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 233.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 314.) *St. Petersburgh, July 30, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions in your Lordship's telegram No. 428 of the 28th instant, Mr. Plunkett called this afternoon upon M. de Giers, and inquired of his Excellency, in my name, whether the Imperial Government would not instruct their Commissioner for the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey not to insist upon the placing of the boundary pillars as the Commission proceeds, but simply to complete the delimitation by verifying the maps, and tracing the line of frontier, after seeing the ground.

Copy of the memorandum which Mr. Plunkett left with M. de Giers is herewith inclosed.

M. de Giers said he must consult the Minister of War before giving a definite answer, but he would see what could be done to accelerate the delimitation, and meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Plunkett added privately to M. de Giers that the Russian Commissioner seems to be inclined to make difficulties which might end in compromising the smooth working of the Commission, and urged his Excellency to engage General Stebnitzky to show as conciliatory a spirit as General Hamley had displayed both on this and on former occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Memorandum.

LE Commissaire Anglais voudrait que le Gouvernement Impérial engageât son Commissaire dans la délimitation de la frontière Asiatique de la Turquie à ne pas insist sur la pose des bornes de délimitation à mesure que l'on avance. C'est une dépense considérable de temps, et, d'après l'avis du Général Hamley, tout-à-fait inutile. Général Hamley et son collègue Turc sont d'avis qu'il suffirait amplement de compléter la délimitation et vérifiant la carte, et en traçant la ligne de frontière après avoir visité le terrain, et qu'alors on pourrait laisser à d'autres le soin secondaire de la pose actuelle des bornes.

No. 234.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 319. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE taken another opportunity of referring, in conversation both with M. de Giers and Baron Jomini, to the present condition of affairs in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Giers again re-asserted in the strongest possible manner that he did not anticipate any disturbances or attempt at revolution in either province, and repeated that the Imperial Government was enjoining both nationalities to abstain from acts which would at once compromise Russia in the eyes of Europe.

Baron de Jomini held incidentally the same language, though he admitted the possibility of an insurrection on the part of the Bulgarians if Turkey found herself embarrassed by hostilities along the Greek frontier.

I have asked the Servian Minister, M. Protitch, whether he thought there was any foundation for the apprehensions, referred to in a good many European newspapers, of a Bulgarian rising. He replied that it entirely depended upon the wishes of the Russian Government. On this I asked him whether, in his opinion, if Russia desired to keep things quiet, she was in a position to control so excitable a population; to which question he returned an emphatic "Yes."

In previous despatches I have already informed your Lordship, as well as the late

Secretary of State, that, as far as I could judge, the Russians seemed inclined to allow matters in the East to quiet down, and to bring to a pacific statement all outstanding questions connected with the Berlin Treaty. Nothing has since occurred to shake this impression, and I find, both from what Count Kálnoky has said to Mr. Plunkett and to myself, that, though naturally disposed to regard the Russian Government with great suspicion, he is pretty much of the same opinion. The Prussian Ambassador has spoken to me in the same sense, though he seemed to think that a serious conflict between the Turks and Greeks in Epirus would be sure to lead to trouble in Eastern Roumelia.

The Emperor, of course, still deeply regrets the non-fulfilment of the Treaty of San Stefano, and observed to one of my colleagues that "Europe had executed a bastard work;" but ill-health, advanced years, and his many other anxieties, render him, I think, unwilling to incur further risks, or to engage in new adventures.

Undoubtedly both His Majesty and his Government were very keen to have the Montenegrin delimitation concluded in a manner satisfactory to its Prince and to his subjects, but I have been all along convinced that no enthusiasm would be exhibited here for the Greek cause. M. Sabouroff's "sortie" on behalf of Greece at the Conference was a personal Act, and was as much a surprise to M. de Giers as to his colleagues.

But though in reality not very hearty in the Greek cause, I have no doubt that your Lordship may count upon the co-operation of the Russian Government in any effort Her Majesty's Ministers may make to procure for Greece the new frontier assigned to her by the late Conference at Berlin.

In conclusion I think it right to add that though I am thus disposed to give Russia credit for a real desire, not only to acquiesce in, but to promote, the European settlement arrived at by the Congress of Berlin, it is scarcely to be supposed that she will view with disfavour or fail to take advantage of any complications which may tend to promote the liberation from Mahometan control and the unification into a dominant Orthodox State, of the Slav inhabitants of European Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 235.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 320.) *St. Petersburgh, August 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 426, repeating General Hamley's of the 26th ultimo, I beg to state that M. de Giers informed me yesterday that General Milutine had consented to orders being sent to the Russian Commissioner at Karnourgan to finish the Asiatic delimitation in accordance with General Hamley's suggestion, and to postpone, for the present, the question of boundary pillars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 236.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 712.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 10, 1880.

I TOLD M. de Freycinet this morning of the proposal of the Austrian Government with regard to the equitable treatment of Catholic and Mussulman inhabitants in the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, and I put into his hands a paper, which was, in fact, a French translation of your Lordship's telegrams of the 6th instant to Sir H. Elliot and Mr. Goschen, repeated to me in your telegram No. 362.

I added that I had just learnt that the German Government would send instructions to Count Hatzfeldt in the sense of your Lordship's answer to the Austrian proposal.

M. de Freycinet said that he would instruct M. Tissot to concert with his colleagues in reference to the matter in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 237.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 713. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 10, 1880.

HAVING received this morning from your Lordship the repetition of Mr. Corbett's telegram No. 30 of the 7th instant, stating that M. Tricoupi had been informed that the Sultan was going to request the German Emperor to arbitrate between Turkey and the Great Powers with reference to the question of the Greek frontier, I asked M. de Freycinet, quite confidentially, whether he had received any similar information.

His Excellency answered that he had not heard a word, either from Constantinople or Athens, as to any such intention on the part of the Sultan, and that he could hardly suppose that the Emperor of Germany would agree to such a request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 238.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 714.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 10, 1880.

IN the course of our conversation this morning, I incidentally asked M. de Freycinet whether General Thomassin and his associates were going to Greece to fulfil their mission.

His Excellency answered, that the matter having been made of so much more importance than it really was, and having given rise to susceptibilities and agitation, he had requested the Minister of War to put off the dispatch of these officers, at least for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 239.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 717.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 10, 1880.

AFTER having been silent for some time with reference to the Eastern question, the "République Française" contains in its issue of to-day a long article on the subject, copies of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

The article argues that the interests of France in the East are not secondary, because their object is not to take, but to preserve. For instance, her duty is scrupulously to watch over the safety of her Algerian possessions, and this necessity imposes upon her the duty of not neglecting what passes in Tunis. Similarly in Egypt and Syria, especially in Egypt, France will never abandon the principles which have hitherto constituted the force of her legitimate influence in those countries.

The article speaks out strongly in favour of the European concert. This concert was clearly defined before the Berlin Conference, which was intended, not to re-open the Eastern question, closed by the Treaty of Berlin, but to complete the execution of that Act. No doubt the Porte raises objections, but she will not disturb the concert. It has sufficed to tell her that an European squadron will appear in the Adriatic for her to accept the cession of Dulcigno to the Montenegrins.

It will also, it is hoped, suffice to make her agree to the decisions of the Berlin Conference, for her to know that what the Powers are ready to do for Montenegro they will do, if necessary, for Greece.

The article finishes by saying that the European concert was established at the Conference of Berlin, and that no one Power desires to retire from it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 240.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August* 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* 12 Août / 30 Août, 1880.

NOUS venons de recevoir une communication par laquelle la Porte nous exprime son désir de voir confié aux Représentants de Constantinople l'examen de l'affaire Turco-Grecque, vu le grand nombre de questions locales et spéciales qui s'y rattachent.

C'est, selon nous, un moyen détourné de constater le principe d'une négociation qui ajournerait la sommation.

Nous avons répondu que nous nous entendrons avec les autres Cabinets, et que la décision sera collective.

Veuillez nous faire connaître l'opinion du Cabinet Anglais à ce sujet.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 10, 1880.

IN the absence of Baron Haymerle, M. de Kallay does not like to take the responsibility of authorizing an allusion to the language held by him, as reported in my despatch No. 364.

He thinks, however, that without mentioning the Austrian Government, it might be stated that the suggestion in question had been made by "some Governments," or from "certain quarters."

Your Lordship's telegram of to-day speaks of a guarantee to be given to the Porte by the Powers, but I do not think Baron Haymerle ever contemplated anything so serious, for he merely spoke of an assurance or declaration of an intention to maintain the rest of the Treaty of Berlin when the Turkish Government had consented to the sacrifices of territory now demanded by them.

No. 242.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August* 10, 1880.

A RUSSIAN in the employment of Macedonian Secret Society, and lately arrived from Rilo, informs me that 20,000 rifles have been collected in depôts at Kostentil, Dubnitsa, and Rilo, for transmission into Macedonia.

He has handed me an apparently authentic telegram received by Minister of War at Sophia from officer at Rilo, acknowledging receipt of 10,000 rifles, 2 mountain guns, and

600,000 cartridges. My informant states that it is decided, in the event of a serious conflict on the Greek frontier, to stir up fresh rebellion in Macedonia, and to declare union between Principality and Province.

Twelve Russian officers have passed through Bourgas for the interior.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 243.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11, 6·45 A.M.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 10, 1880, 1·4 P.M.

MILITARY preparations very active. At my interview yesterday with Minister for Foreign Affairs he spoke out more strongly about certainty of Porte's refusal to yield, and the disastrous consequences, than he had done before. He said he knew the kind of reply he should receive, that Europe could not alter her decision, but that the Porte had been asked to make sacrifices beyond what was possible, and Europe must be prepared for all the troubles which would ensue.

I replied that he did not overrate, but perhaps underrated, the results of resistance. Her Majesty's Government were perfectly aware of them. There would be troubles in every part of the Turkish Empire. I used the arguments in your Lordship's despatch No. 540, and repeated that England pressed the Porte so strongly to yield because there was destruction to Turkey in the contrary event. His Excellency then said that he did not doubt himself the entire sincerity of all I said, but the general feeling now was that it was England who, by her initiative and pressure of the other Powers, was bringing Turkey to this extreme, and all belief in the friendship of England was passing away. Sensible men might see that this view was incorrect, but public feeling was running very high.

My colleagues scarcely seem so resolute as they were, and I doubt whether thoroughly strong and straightforward language continues to be held by all.

French Ambassador has been told that the Porte has proofs that the English Tories are counselling resistance, and did not appear to disbelieve such nonsense. Generally the impression is spreading that the English Liberal Cabinet alone is thoroughly determined, and reports from nearly every capital have made the Porte believe they can resist with impunity.

No. 244.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11, 5·8 P.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August* 11, 1880, 11·8 A.M.

FRENCH Admiral, with squadron, in consequence of orders from Paris, has left Piræus suddenly for Tunis. A gun-boat only remains here.

No. 245.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(No. 447.)
Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1880, 7 P.M.

GERMAN Chargé d'Affaires has mentioned to me that a proposal has been made at Constantinople that the German Ambassador should be charged to negotiate, on behalf of his colleagues, with the Porte as to the details of the surrender of the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, but that his Government were unwilling that their Ambassador should be put prominently forward in discussions resulting from joint communications, though willing that he should take part in any combined representation.

I replied that I supposed he had been invited to take the lead as Doyen, but that I thought the objection of the German Government could be met by the Ambassadors drawing up among themselves a memorandum of the conditions, and asking the German Ambassador, as Doyen, to present it, which would be a purely ministerial act.

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[a] Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 394), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 493), Sir A. Paget (No. 434), Mr. Goschen (No. 382), and Lord Lyons.

No. 246.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 11, 7·35 P.M.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 11, 1880, 7 P.M.

COUNT MAFFEI says that last report from Count Corti represents the Porte as now trying to evade execution of the Dulcigno proposal, but suggests sending armed force to carry out April Convention. If forced to adhere to former proposal, Porte demands six weeks to execute transfer. Italian Government are waiting to know what steps other Powers suggest to be taken.

No. 247.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.[a]

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1880, 8 P.M.

"TIMES" telegram from Kustendjie, dated 10th instant, reports that two propellers, heavily laden with troops, munitions, and artillery, passed up Danube last night. Other vessels, similarly laden and bearing no flag, have also been passing. Can you ascertain if there is any truth in this report, and if so, where the troops and arms came from?

No. 248.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.†

(No. 489.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1880.

I LEARN from the German Chargé d'Affaires that it has been proposed at Constantinople that the negotiations with the Porte respecting the details of the surrender of the districts to be ceded to Montenegro should be carried on by the German Ambassador on behalf of his colleagues; the German Government did not wish their Representative to be put prominently forward as negotiator for the Corps Diplomatique at Constantinople; they were, however, willing that he should associate himself with his colleagues in any representations that should be made to the Porte on the subject.

I remarked to Baron von den Brincken that it was probably as Doyen that the German Ambassador had been invited to take this step, as he had been previously requested to present identic and collective notes. M. von den Brincken pointed out that there was a distinction between doing so and acting as a negotiator. I suggested that the Ambassadors might agree to draw up a memorandum of stipulations, which M. von Hatzfeldt might present as a purely ministerial act.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 249.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1100.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a draft of an instruction which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Her Majesty's Representatives at the Courts of the Powers who are constituted mediators in the question of the Greek frontier by the Treaty of Berlin; and I have to request that you will lose no time in calling upon M. de Freycinet, and asking whether he concurs in this draft.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] Also to Mr. Lascelles (No. 3).
† Also to Sir H. Elliot, the Earl of Dufferin, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Macdonell, and Mr. Adams.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Draft of Circular Instruction to Her Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

I HAVE to instruct you to ask the Government to which you are accredited if they concur with Her Majesty's Government and that of France that the rejoinder should state that the decision come to at the late Berlin Conference was arrived at after due deliberation, and after a consideration of the lines of frontier respectively put forward for adoption by the Turkish and Greek Governments, and that the Mediating Powers cannot consent to reopen the discussion, but, having approved the award of the Conference, must abide by it, and again recommend it to the Porte as being in conformity with the Treaty and Protocol of Berlin.

They cannot, therefore, consent to authorize their Ambassadors to enter into any discussion on the subject of the frontier line, though they are at liberty to entertain any proposals which the Porte may have to offer as to the manner in which the evacuation of the territory by the Turkish authorities and its surrender to Greece should be conducted.

No. 250.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 536.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1880.

Sir,

M. DE HENGELMÜLLER has communicated to me the substance of a telegram from the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to his Government, reporting that Abédine Pasha has confidentially declared the surrender of Dinosdir and Gruda to be as difficult as that of Tusi and Hum, and has stated, unofficially, that under these circumstances the Porte prefers to give effect to the April Convention, and will send the Minister of War, with 2,000 men, for the purpose of carrying it out within three weeks. Should this prove impossible, then the Porte would ask for a further delay for the execution of the Dulcigno scheme.

I told M. de Hengelmüller that I had received the same report from Rome, and that I should propose that the Powers should adhere to the arrangement specified in the collective note presented on the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 251.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 84. Political.) *Salonica, July* 31, 1880

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of the despatches which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Albanian and Macedonian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 251.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, July 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of Mr. Assistant Alvarez's Report, with one inclosure, on the subject of recent occurrences at Salonica.

The discovery of arms and ammunition at the Greek Consulate, and the affair of the Acting French Consul with the local police, have caused some excitement among the inhabitants, but I am glad to say the town is quiet and no disturbances are apprehended.

The case of Constantine Manuki, who has been tried by the local Military Court on

the charge of attempting to procure signatures from the villagers of Valmades (in Turkish "Youndjular") to so-called seditious documents, tends to prove the suspected connection of the Russian Consulate-General here with the doings of the Bulgarian propaganda in Macedonia.

Sworn depositions have been made by several Christians of Valmades, with the village priest at their head, showing that the above-named Manuki was employed by the Russian Consulate-General in procuring signatures to certain documents.

At first Manuki disowned all knowledge of the matter, but subsequently admitted, on being confronted in open Court with the witnesses, that "he had been sent by the Russian Consulate to Valmades and other villages for the purpose of getting the peasants to subscribe two documents of whose purport he feigned ignorance."

What these documents contained I am not yet able to say, but it appears, from what the Greek Archbishop and Turkish authorities told me, that they were drawn up in Bulgarian in the form of protests against the Ottoman Government and the Greek Hierarchy.

This is not the only instance of Greeks having denounced people who were suspected of working under Russian auspices in behalf of the Slav movement in Macedonia. In the Strounnitza affair, which I reported in the despatches marked in the margin,* two Bulgarians and five Turks of those who were denounced by the Greek Archbishop and community in that district of conspiring with the Russian Consular Dragoman for the purpose of exciting the inhabitants against the Local Administration and Greek clergy have been condemned, after trial by the Salonica Court-martial, to be exiled for a period of two years in Anatolia.

But the Bulgarians are not backward in making somewhat similar denunciations against the Greeks.

In fact, both sides watch each other with restless jealousy and distrust, and are ever ready to serve as informers in reciprocally exposing their designs and movements to the authorities. For instance, not very long ago two deacons were dispatched to Macedonia by the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople charged with the mission of exhorting the Christian inhabitants to avoid all connection with the proceedings of Slav emissaries who were known to be scheming in the country, particularly among the Greco-Bulgarian part of the population.

Although they set out on their mission with the knowledge and approval of the Porte, and were furnished with credentials from the provincial authorities, endless difficulties were put in their way by the Mahommedan inhabitants, to whom they had been represented by some "Koginbashis" or Headmen of Bulgarian villages as Greek agents secretly trying to excite the people to revolt.

This accusation gained such consistency that at last one of the deacons came to grief. He was actually arrested and cast in prison by the Mudir of Karadjova-abat, and it was not without some difficulty the Greek Archbishop of Salonica had him released.

His Eminence, from whom I heard the above particulars, also told me that the Mahommedans of the said district have been so worked upon by the opposite party that they now persecute all those Christian villagers who are suspected of having had any relations with the unfortunate deacon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 251.

Mr. Alvarez to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, July 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with your instructions to that effect, I called upon his Excellency Atif Pasha, the President of the Military Court, yesterday, the 27th instant.

In the course of conversation his Excellency referred to the discovery of arms, ammunition, &c., in the Greek Consulate-General that morning, and at my request gave me a copy of the list the military authorities had drawn up, and of which I herewith inclose a translation.

It appears that yesterday, about sunrise, a fire broke out in the premises of the Greek Consulate-General, and the police proceeded to assist its occupants in removing their

* March 31 and April 4, 1880.

property. Private individuals, who assisted the police in so doing, discovered that two boxes they were carrying out contained arms, which were thereupon taken to the authorities. It should be mentioned that two other boxes with similar contents, as is supposed, were carried out by Greeks, and thus escaped detection.

The Pasha stated that the Greek Acting Consul-General had called and demanded that the arms, &c., in question should be given up, alleging that they had been collected from deserters from the Greek army. As some of the articles, however, had unquestionably belonged to the Turkish troops, the Pasha declined to do so. I subsequently was shown, in the court-yard of the citadel, one of the two boxes mentioned in the inclosed list, and saw several guns (Martinis) which bore the Turkish Government mark, in very good condition, as well as ammunition cases containing cartridges.

Referring to the case of Constantine Manuki, Khojabaschi of Dudular, who had been recently tried by the Military Court on a charge of attempting, at the instigation of the Russian Consulate-General, to persuade the villagers of Valmades to sign seditious documents, I inquired whether he had been condemned, and in what penalty. His Excellency told me that he had been condemned to exile for two years to Adana, and would shortly be sent thither. I endeavoured to procure a copy of the statements made by Manuki on his trial, as well as one of the depositions made by the villagers. With regard to the former I was unsuccessful, as the Pasha declared it to be against the rules of the Court to give copy of statements made by prisoners under trial. I succeeded, however, in obtaining a promise that copy of the latter, along with one of the report, or "journal," relative to the discovery at the Greek Consulate-General, should be sent to me on the following day.

With reference to reports which I had heard concerning the Acting French Consul, I asked whether it was true that M. Krawcski had, as reported, gone to the house of a French protégé, whose property was being conveyed outside, and had struck with his stick the zaptiehs engaged in the performance of their duty, who thereupon, without retaliation, retired. Atif Pasha, after consulting the Report on the matter, replied that the facts were as follows:—A Jew, by name Abraham Gavril, an Ottoman subject, but having a French passport, occupied a house the property of a Christian lady. As he refused to pay his rent, the zaptiehs proceeded to remove his property from the house. M. Krawcski came up to the zaptiehs and asked them why they were there, and, on their explaining, struck them, officers and men indiscriminately, and drove them off. Without making any resistance they withdrew. The Pasha and other officers present spoke with great indignation, and appeared to feel the affront very keenly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. W. ALVAREZ.

P.S.—The two documents referred to in this Report have not, as yet, been sent to the Consulate-General.

J. C. W. A.

Inclosure 3 in No. 251.

List of Arms, Ammunition, &c., discovered in the Greek Consulate-General, July 26, 1880.

(Translation.)

Martini cartridges	300
Cannon „	8
Common „ (3 packets)	30 or 36
Revolver „	32
Greek Martini cartridges (155 packets)	1,550 or 1,360
Powder case	1
Powder, 3 cases—1 containing 6¼ okes, 1 9½ okes, 1 11 okes; total, 26¾ okes	About 71 lbs.
Boxes containing guns	2
Martinis	4
Greek needle-guns	20
Bayonets	4
Cartridge boxes	4
Small swords found with cartridge boxes	20

Inclosure 4 in No. 251.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Salonica, July 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translated extracts from two letters which the Greek Archbishop of Salonica has recently received from Koritza (in Turkish "Giortcha"), a town in the Vilayet of Monastir, and which he has confidentially communicated to me, furnishing some information on the Albanian movement.

I may add that his Eminence has informed me that his colleague the Archbishop of Satchista, also in the above vilayet, has recently come to Salonica for the purpose of personally representing to the Turkish authorities the exposed position of that town, which is entirely inhabited by Christians, and the urgent need of sending troops for its protection against Albanian inroads.

It appears that the inhabitants of Satchista, like those of Koritza, are very much alarmed at the growing agitation in Albania, and fear that they will suffer from the cruel and rapacious spirit of the Albanian irregulars who they expect will be allowed to overrun the country in case of war with Greece.

His Eminence further told me that other towns in the interior are a prey to similar apprehensions, and I have heard from other sources that a feeling of inquietude prevails among all classes of the population caused by the growing impression that hostilities will break out between Turkey and Greece.

Persons who have recently come here from the Vilayet of Cossova say that a large meeting was about to assemble at Prisrend of Albanian Chiefs from the principal districts, for the purpose of raising funds and concerting further measures of resistance to the claims of Montenegro; and a well-informed person who arrived here from Monastir yesterday evening states that no less than ten Beys of that town have been summoned to the meeting, but show a disinclination to join the movement.

It is also rumoured that there are signs of a mutinous spirit among the Turkish troops at Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—Seifullah Bey, the Aide-de-camp to the Sultan who is mentioned in the inclosed correspondence, arrived here this week from Constantinople, and has proceeded to the interior with the object, it is suspected, of inciting the Albanians to oppose any cession of territory.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 5 in No. 251.

Translation of Extracts from two Letters from Koritza.

(No. 1.)

THE position in which we are now placed is most dreadful; the Beys and Aghas here, led by their spiritual chiefs, seek to include us too among their collaborators in the coming war against Greece, against our convictions and consciences. They invite us to send along with them representatives of the Christian communities here to Veghlista, where the representatives of Castoria, Starowo, Koritza, and Veghlista will assemble for the purpose of drawing up regulations for their further operations. From the above it is to be seen that we are obliged to sign such documents, and we shall shortly be compelled to fight.

We protested as much as was in our power against such a measure, but they immediately opposed us with threats, with which it appears they will not be satisfied.

Exposing these facts, we beg for fitting succour. But these matters are to be communicated with greatest reserve, otherwise inevitable distruction threatens us.

(No. 2.)

We fear that something *mal-apropos* will happen; the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, Jahia Bey, having had the necessary conversation with Mukhtar Pasha, passed through this

town three days ago, and having exhorted the proper people, went to Argyrocastro. Every day Albanian soldiers pass by here; 150 soldiers dismissed at the right moment have deserted and have gone to Zabulia, the native place of the above-mentioned Jahia Bey, who has another brother, Scifullah Bey, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, and is also brother of Osman Bey in Salonica. Here he spoke in the following way: "Let us," said he, "Albanians be prepared to die."

No. 252.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth on the subject of his interview with the Civil Governor of Thessaly respecting the rumour prevalent in Larissa of an intended massacre of the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, July 28, 1880.*

I HAVE to report that a rumour of an alarming nature has of late prevailed in the Greek circles of this town. It is declared that a scheme had been organized by the Mahommedans to massacre and rob the Christians in the event of Larissa being ceded to Greece.

It appears the idea has completely seized the minds of the Rayah population, so much so that the other night the shrieks for help of the parents of a child drowned in a well started a cry of massacre among the neighbours, and caused such general excitement and alarm in that part of the quarter as to bring promptly to the scene a body of troops with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets.

I have sufficiently ascertained that the report has no foundation, and that it is a mere threat, originating from a Turkish source, and circulated among the Christians in order to induce them to furnish a written declaration in favour of Turkish rule.

In a long interview with his Excellency the Civil Governor of the province, I drew attention to the disquietude caused by the rumour, and pointed out the advisability of taking some steps which will tend to silence the suspicions and still the misgivings of the Christian public.

I told his Excellency that I entirely disbelieved in events leading to a massacre, expressing at the same time my confidence that the authorities would promptly and vigorously stop the spread of any serious disturbances that might arise. I reminded him that, besides 3,000 Jews, there is at Larissa a population of 14,000 Mahommedans and 6,000 Christians; that about 5,000 of the former and 1,000 of the latter were able-bodied men; and that 2,000 of the one and 100 of the other may be classed as reckless characters, who, having no property at stake, are always ready for any villany and mischief. I hinted that the disproportion of the numbers of the two respective elements might tempt some thoughtless Turks and Albanians to set up an agitation against the Greeks for the sake of plunder. The consequences of such a movement, I remarked, would be terrific, for the irritation caused by the rivalry of race and creed, conflicting interests and sympathies, is such that mere plunder would not satiate the excited passions of such a rabble, and that scenes of infamy and horror might be enacted which would once more stain the history of Turkey.

His Excellency listened to my observations with interest, and before I left he promised me (1) to consult the Mufti for the adoption of such measures as would tend to control the spirit of the Mussulmans; (2) to expulse from the town Albanian or other idlers; and (3) to form a town gendarmerie composed and officered by Christians.

As regards the gendarmerie, his Excellency requested me to recommend some trustworthy Rayahs for the service, but I was obliged to refuse, as I thought it injudicious,

under present circumstances, to take upon myself further responsibilities than are absolutely necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 253.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 6, 1880.*

I HAVE had the honour to acquaint your Lordship of the probable acceptance by the Turkish Government of the proposed cession of territory to Montenegro in the direction of Dulcigno.

The collective note on the subject was presented on the 3rd instant. The Russian Ambassador happened to be with Abédine Pasha when the First Dragoman of the German Embassy delivered the note. Abédine Pasha read the note, and asked M. de Novikoff whether he could indicate the line of the new frontier. On a map being brought, M. de Novikoff indicated the main points of the new line. When Abédine Pasha heard that the line left Dinozi to the Montenegrins he made an exclamation, and professed astonishment at this concession to the east of the Lake of Scutari. M. de Novikoff did not enter into any discussion of the point.

The next day I called on Abédine Pasha, and he informed me of what had taken place between himself and the Russian Ambassador. He asked me to treat the matter confidentially, so as to avoid any disagreeable incident with the Russian Ambassador, but he wished to explain to me how surprised he had been that his Excellency should have included Dinozi in a cession which he himself had understood referred to Dulcigno. It was now suggested that not only should Dulcigno be abandoned, but a part of the territory assigned by the April Convention as well. I at once replied that M. de Novikoff had only explained to him what was the line on which all the Powers were agreed. I could not discuss the line myself from memory, but he might rely on the fact that M. de Novikoff had taken no separate course; no disagreeable incident with Russia could therefore arise. Abédine Pasha then said that if Dinozi were included there would be fresh difficulties.

My impression was that Abédine Pasha had not realized that any territory east of the Lake of Scutari would have to be ceded. Yet, if he had read the previous note carefully, he would have seen that concessions east and west of the lake are distinctly mentioned. Your Lordship will remember that it was in consequence of difficulties raised by M. de Novikoff that the exact line of frontier was not communicated to the Porte when the proposal was first made. M. de Novikoff, wishing to keep the exact line open with a view to modifications which the Prince of Montenegro had, as he alleged, reserved to himself the power of making, objected to our sending the details, and, in order to avoid the delay of fresh instructions being asked for and obtained by him, general, though sufficient words were used. They were as follows: "Je suis autorisé par le Gouvernement de à indiquer, comme l'équivalent des cessions stipulées par l'Acte du 18 Avril, une rectification de frontière à l'est et à l'ouest du Lac de Scutari, rectification qui, du côté de la mer, étendrait le littoral appartenant aujourd'hui au Monténégro jusqu'à l'embouchure de la Boyana, y compris Dulcigno."

The question of conditions which would be necessary was also reserved in the following terms:—"Le Gouvernement de se réserve, d'ailleurs, dès que la Porte l'aura accepté en principe, de préciser les divers points de la nouvelle ligne de démarcation ainsi que les conditions de détail destinées à compléter cet arrangement."

The Porte can, therefore, not contend that they had only been informed that the cession of Dulcigno would be demanded. In the collective note, to the terms of which the Cabinets agreed, it is true that reference is only made to the cession in the direction of Dulcigno, but the reference to "the alternative plan" naturally covers the whole line proposed in the previous note.

A meeting of the Ambassadors was at once called by Count Hatzfeldt to determine what course should be taken in view of what had passed as to Dinozi, and it was resolved to let the Porte have the details of the proposed line unofficially at once, so as to avoid any misunderstanding. The new line of frontier would, according to the terms of the note of the 26th June, be communicated officially as soon as the Porte had accepted in principle. The Porte are now in possession of the details, but I have not yet heard how the Ministers have received this point of Dinozi. I recall a despatch of Mr. Kirby Green

to your Lordship (No. 128 of the 29th May), in which, speaking of Dinozi, he say "The village was destroyed by the Montenegrins during the war, and its inhabitants, who are mostly Moslems, are now nearly all refugees in Scutari. M. Lippich and I, therefore, believe that the difficulty of inducing the Roman Catholic mountaineers to consent to evacuate Dinozi would not be insurmountable. If we should be mistaken, it would be useless to imagine that the boundary could be drawn in this direction without bloodshed."

As it is possible that trouble may arise on this question, I have thought it right to place the state of the case fully before your Lordship.

My colleagues and myself have also considered very anxiously when the point as to the demolition of the fortresses in the territory ceded to Montenegro under the Convention of the 18th April should be communicated to the Porte. We have thought it would naturally be enumerated amongst the conditions which will be stated when the Porte has accepted in principle. Some of my colleagues were rather doubtful whether their instructions treated this condition as a *sine qud non*.

The best manner of negotiating the terms and mode of the cession has also been discussed. Abédine Pasha has suggested that it would be most expedient for the terms to be arranged between one of the Ambassadors acting for the remainder and himself. The convenience of this mode was acknowledged almost unanimously, and on the whole it was thought best that the Doyen should be the organ of his colleagues, naturally consulting them at every step, and only communicating to the Foreign Minister what had been agreed upon by all. The discussion may, however, be regarded as premature, as most of the Ambassadors have as yet received no answer to the suggestion made, that we should be authorized to agree on the mode and terms of the cession here.

I venture to submit that a decision on this point is very urgent, as progress might at once be made in elaborating the necessary details, and in considering what precautions will prevent a recurrence of the failure to execute experience in the case of the April Convention.

In my conversation with Abédine Pasha, I gave him again most distinctly to understand that nothing short of a *bond fide* transfer of the territory to the Montenegrins in a peaceable manner would satisfy Europe. The Montenegrin question would only be considered settled if Montenegro passed into quiet possession of the ceded districts, and remained free from Albanian attacks elsewhere. I found that M. de Novikoff had used almost identical language.

It is absolutely necessary to make the Porte feel that a mere recall of their troops and their authorities will not suffice.

I observe from Sir H. Elliot's telegram to your Lordship No. 119, that the Austrian Government consider that the naval demonstration should take place if Dulcigno is not in the peaceable possession of the Montenegrins within three weeks.

I have ventured to telegraph to your Lordship strongly supporting this view.

Looking to the unceasing efforts made in every quarter to persuade the Sultan that Europe is not in earnest and is only "theoretically" united, the actual display of a fleet in which all the Great Powers would be represented is, in my judgment, of very great importance. Also there can be little hope that the Porte will show such alacrity in making the transfer effective as to render such a display superfluous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 254.

Pro-memoria communicated by M. de Hengelmüller, August 12, 1880.

WE agree to every procedure tending to accelerate progress of negotiations with the Porte in the Montenegrin question, in consequence also with that which Lord Granville has proposed—the consent of the other Powers presupposed; but we think that, as the majority of the Ambassadors in Constantinople have been instructed by their Governments to stipulate amongst themselves the guarantees to be obtained from the Porte for the assuring of the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement, the fixation of the *modus procedendi* for the respective negotiations with the Porte ought also to be left with them.

Belgrave Square, August 12, 1880.

No. 255.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 385.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

WE receive from Rome and Vienna reports of language held by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs similar to that reported in your telegram No. 167.

We think the Powers should abide by the terms of their last collective note in regard to Montenegrin frontier.

No. 256.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 395.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880, 8 A.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 169, you may mention to the Government to which you are accredited, without going into details, that there is great doubt by the Turks of the firmness of the Cabinets, which makes it particularly desirable that no change of tone should appear.

No. 257.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 495.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880, 8·15 A.M.

A REPORT, which originated at Berlin, that Mr. Goschen had proposed that Janina should be excluded from territory to be ceded to Greece, has been telegraphed to him, and I hear from him in reply that he has not made or suggested any such change.

No. 258.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 12, 10·10 P.M.)

(No. 170. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 12, 1880, 1 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 380, German Ambassador tells me he has made no communication to Berlin justifying the statement that any proposal or suggestion for compromise as to Janina could be ascribed to me. He has simply written that all his colleagues considered that if Janina is left to Greece peaceful solution is impossible, while in the contrary event Turkish acceptance was just possible. He himself had felt and repeatedly expressed this feeling in the strongest manner. Is it possible that the Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, for obvious reasons, may have been instructed to spread the rumour?

It would be perfectly unjustifiable, as I have never consented even to transmit a message, except on the occasion when Minister for Foreign Affairs begged me to send a suggestion of his own under the seal of absolute secrecy, and I have never held out hopes that anything less would be accepted than had been awarded by the Powers, but I have pointed out to him, when he declared that Janina could never be ceded, that he had never even done what he once suggested he would do, namely, state that an equivalent of equal or greater value would be offered by the Porte elsewhere.

No. 259.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 375.)
Foreign Office, August 12, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the note addressed by your Excellency to Abédine Pasha, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch No. 149 of the 10th ultimo, wherein you call his serious

[a] Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 494), Mr. Adams (No. 373), Mr. Macdonell (No. 436), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 448).

attention to the late collision near Podgoritza between the Albanians and the Montenegrins, and represent the expediency of an early settlement of the frontier question by the execution of the Dulcigno cession.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 260.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 378.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have learned with great regret, from your Excellency's despatch No. 212 of the 3rd instant, the feelings and arguments with which the Porte is allowing itself to be deluded into resistance to the will of Europe.

Your Excellency is aware how imperfectly Musurus Pasha has conveyed to the Sultan and the Porte the sentiments of successive Governments in this country, or the tendency of public opinion. It is scarcely probable that the other Ambassadors who presumably, like him, seek to send reports which will be agreeable to the Sultan, rather than to faithfully state the truth, keep the Porte better informed.

The Ministers of the Sultan can hardly still continue to believe that the arguments with which they have been so long and so ill-advisedly protracting the controversy on the question of the Greek frontier are likely to appeal with any force to the Powers against the award of the Conference of Berlin.

They contend, according to your Excellency's despatch, that no cession was settled by the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and that by the terms of the Treaty the question was left open; but it will be seen on referring to the Treaty that the Protocol is specifically mentioned in the XXIVth Article, which states that, "in the event of the Sublime Porte and Greece being unable to agree upon the rectification of frontier indicated ('indiqué') in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin," the Powers reserve to themselves to offer their mediation. The words of this Article plainly imply that the mediation to be exercised was subject to the Protocol, and it was so understood by the Conference and accepted by the Powers.

The Porte, in reviving this argument, the discussion of which was exhausted in the fruitless debates with the Greek Commissioners at Constantinople, is evidently merely having recourse to the policy of procrastination which it habitually pursues, and which has already had such a fatal influence on the Empire. The Porte is apparently under the belief that if it delays sufficiently long the concert of the Powers must break up. It overlooks, however, the much greater probability, that some outbreak of insurrection in its misgoverned provinces, or some aggravation of the persecution to which the Christians are subjected in parts of Macedonia, as reported by Mr. Consul St. John, will bring about another crisis like that which led to the late war with Russia, and that then there will be an appeal to the Powers, to which some, at least, would not be reluctant to agree, for much more decided measures than a naval demonstration off Dulcigno.

The Porte must be ill-informed if it is not aware that an opinion is held, and gains strength every day among the Cabinets, that it is not only an inconvenience, but a real danger to Europe, that Turkey, relying on this possible disunion, should oppose a steady resistance to decisions arrived at by all the Powers in the interests of peace.

What the Porte really relies upon is the difficulty of finding a successor to the Sultan in the possession of Constantinople.

It would be a dangerous error for the Sultan to suppose that, on account of the difficulty mentioned, Europe would allow the engagements bound upon His Majesty by the Treaty of Berlin to be set at nought.

Her Majesty's Government believe, and are glad to do so, that Europe concurs with them in wishing to see the Sultan obtain a firmer and more permanent hold of his Empire by the settlement of the international frontier questions, and by the execution of reforms in Europe and in Asia. But this feeling has its limits, and certainly does not extend to the maintenance of a state of things which, instead of being a guarantee of peace, is certain to lead to serious complications.

By resistance to the award of the Conference, the Porte will greatly encourage the movement for union between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia—a movement which it is probable will not stop there. Is it wise, in view of such a contingency, to estrange all the Great Powers?

The present position of the Turkish Government, if they chose to avail themselves

of it, has great advantages. Her Majesty's Government have proposed a self-denying Protocol, which has been accepted by the Powers in principle, and which would preclude any of them from taking advantage of the state of Turkey for their own individual objects and interests. A declaration has been proposed by others, to which Her Majesty's Government agree in principle, and the object of which would be to prevent further concessions being demanded of the Ottoman Empire on behalf of the minor States.

There is, therefore, yet time, if the Porte consents to carry out the arrangements of the Berlin Treaty, for the Turkish Empire to again consolidate itself by reforms.

On the other hand, if the Porte persists in its opposition to the will of Europe, nothing remains but the results which Her Majesty's Government would deeply deplore.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 261.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 379.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, copies of the instructions which I have requested the Lords of the Admiralty to address to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station in regard to the proposed demonstration off the coast of Dulcigno.

I also inclose copies of despatches on the subject which will be addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 262.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 380.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

I LEARNT from your Excellency's telegram No. 167 of the 10th instant that Abédine Pasha proposes to attempt first to carry out the April Convention with Montenegro, and, in the event of its failure, to ask for a further delay to execute the Dulcigno arrangement. Similar reports of his language have reached me from Vienna and Rome.

But, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it is desirable that the Powers should abide by the terms of their last collective note in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, and I have accordingly telegraphed to-day to your Excellency to this effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 263.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[a]

(No. 388.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

I REPEATED to your Excellency Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 169 of the 10th instant, reporting the language held to his Excellency by Abédine Pasha as to the impossibility of the Porte's carrying out the decision of the Berlin Conference in regard to the Greek frontier, and stating that an impression prevailed that Her Majesty's Government alone were in earnest on the point. I have accordingly authorized your Excellency by telegraph to mention to the Russian Government, without however going into details, that great doubt exists among the Turks of the firmness and unanimity of the Cabinets, and it is particularly desirable that there should be no appearance of a change of tone which could encourage the Porte to resist the award.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] Also to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, and Sir H. Elliot.

No. 264.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 100.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE your having called M. Zancoff's attention to the delay of the Bulgarian Government in demolishing the fortifications of Levan-Tabia and Shumla, and to the enlistment of volunteers at Tirnova, as reported in your despatch No. 121 of the 27th ultimo, and I have to instruct you to make further inquiries as to the alleged arrival of Russian officers and arms of which Mr. Dalziel has informed you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 265.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 101.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copies of two despatches from the Turkish Government which have been communicated to me by Musurus Bey, the one calling attention to an attempt by the Bulgarian authorities to occupy by force certain villages within the Eastern Roumelian frontier, and the other complaining of an attack by Bulgarians upon an encampment of emigrants at Paluka.*

I have to instruct you to make inquiry as to the nature and date of the occurrences referred to in these notes.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 266.

Earl Granville to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, August 12, 1880.

My Lords,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordships herewith a copy of a collective note which was presented to the Porte by Her Majesty's Ambassador and the other Ambassadors of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin on the 3rd instant,† in which it is stated that unless the Convention, with regard to the frontier of Montenegro of the 18th of April last, is carried out within three weeks of the date of the note, the Porte will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the district of Dulcigno.

I have accordingly to request that your Lordships will give directions that the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station will take the necessary measures for having a force of two ships of war and a despatch vessel ready to take part in the naval demonstration which it is intended should be made by the allied squadrons off the coast of Dulcigno in pursuance of this note, and I transmit to your Lordships drafts of the instructions which Her Majesty's Government consider should be addressed to the Admiral on the subject, together with drafts of the despatches which it is intended to address at the same time to Her Majesty's Ambassadors.

You will see from the latter that a proposal is to be made to the Powers that their squadrons, or a part of them, should rendezvous, in the first instance, at Palermo, and proceed thence to Cattaro, when the time for the naval demonstration may arrive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Nos. 170 and 171.

† Inclosure in No. 205.

No. 267.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 67.) *Scutari, August* 11, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE been requested by the Montenegrin Government to inform your Lordship that they have learnt that great preparations are being made in North-east Albania to attack the Principality, both near Gusinjé and Kolachin, and that they have received threatening messages from Ali Pasha of the former place.

I am not disposed to attach much importance to these threats, as the state of disorder in North-east Albania is too great to permit of serious combined action.

It is just possible, however, that the Turkish Government might wish to create the belief that no settlement is practicable on the Montenegrin borders, and have set afloat the reports in question.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 268.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 1·50 A.M.)

(No. 99. Confidential.) *Rome, August* 12, 1880, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HEAR that on receipt of Count Corti's telegram, mentioned in my No. 98, Italian Government at once called on Turkish Minister to telegraph to his Government that it was was absolutely necessary that the Porte should, "at all costs," settle the Montenegrin question without a moment's further delay.

No. 269.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 1·20 A.M.)

(No. 1. Confidential.) *Bucharest, August* 12, 1880, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 4 of last night, it appears certain that stores of ammunition are being kept well supplied at Reni on the Danube, and all reports agree that continual weekly shipments are made from thence in barges for Bulgaria, probably for Rustchuk.

British Vice-Consul at that place informs me of the arrival of a steamer bringing one and a-half field batteries.

All information received agrees that, on the 8th instant, barges heavily laden with ammunition were seen on the Danube drawn by two propellers, one of which had the Bulgarian flag flying, the other none. There can be no doubt as to their origin or destination. The third propeller was said to be carrying men, possibly artillerymen, but their number cannot have been large, and there is no statement before me to lead me to believe that any regular troops are being conveyed.

I shall report anything further I can learn, and have sent the above to Mr. Lascelles.

No. 270.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 8·46 A.M.)

(No. 69.) *Paris, August* 12, 1880, *midnight.*

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR despatch No. 1100.

I have just received a note from M. de Freycinet stating that he has no observation to make on the terms of the instructions which your Lordship proposes to address to Her Majesty's Ambassadors relative to the Greek question, and that the views of the French Government are entirely conformable to the ideas developed in this project.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

MONTENEGRIN frontier.

Austrian Government consider that the question of the time to be allowed to the Turkish Government to carry out the Dulcigno project in the event of their failing to execute the Corti arrangement need not be entered upon till the three weeks assigned for carrying out the latter expire without result, when the Porte will be called upon to join the Powers in putting Montenegro into possession of Dulcigno.

No. 272.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 126 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

M. KALLAY has no objection to the Eastern Roumelian Commission being adjourned instead of dissolved.

No. 273.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

M. KALLAY agrees with your Lordship in considering it essential that no change of tone should lead the Turks to suppose that the Cabinets are hesitating, as the only hope of their giving way lies in a belief that the Governments are firm.

No. 274.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 13, 1880.*

THIS morning I communicated to M. de Freycinet the intelligence contained in Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 167 as to change in Porte's attitude and new scheme with respect to Montenegrin question, and I said that your Lordship had received similar reports from Vienna and Rome as to language of Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. de Freycinet remarked that he too had similar information. I then told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reported that serious doubts were entertained by the Turks of the Cabinets, which make it particularly desirable that no change of tone should appear. M. de Freycinet said that he was entirely of this opinion; that only last Wednesday he had declared to Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the Porte was doing herself great injury by speculating on dissensions among the Powers; that none existed, and that the Powers were determined to go on to the end.

His Excellency added that he had more than once instructed the French Ambassador at Constantinople to hold similar language to the Porte when any opportunity offered; and he begged me to assure your Lordship most positively that the French Government would persist in this firm attitude, and act in perfect concert with the other Powers.

No. 275.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No 455.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.*

REFERENCE to your telegram No. 127.

Express to M. Kallay the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at agreement of Austrian Government.

No. 276.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 400.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 13, 1880, 6 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government considered that the interest manifested by France and the active part taken by her in bringing forward proposals for the Greek frontier settlement rendered it a proper mark of respect to propose to the French Government that they should draft the rejoinder to the Porte, and other Governments seem to have taken the same view.

Her Majesty's Government attach no importance to the question of who shall draft the note, so that the substance of it is agreed to by the Powers, and as the French Government appear reluctant to undertake it, Her Majesty's Government, if they are informed of the general opinion of the mediating Powers as to the tenour of the reply, will be ready to prepare a draft, or to agree that, as the collective note was drawn up by the Ambassadors at Berlin, the rejoinder should be prepared by the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Ask the Government to which you are accredited if they concur with Her Majesty's Government and that of France that the rejoinder should state that the decision come to at the late Berlin Conference was arrived at after due deliberation and after a consideration of the line of frontier respectively put forward for adoption by the Turkish and Greek Governments, and that the mediating Powers cannot consent to reopen the discussion, but having approved the award of the Conference, must abide by it, and again recommend it to the Porte as being in conformity with the Treaty and Protocol of Berlin.

They cannot, therefore, consent to authorize their Ambassadors to enter into any discussion on the subject of the frontier-line, though they are at liberty to entertain any proposals which the Porte may have to offer as to the manner in which the evacuation of the territory by the Turkish authorities and its surrender to Greece should best be conducted.

No. 277.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 13, 1880, 1·45 P.M.*

THERE is a further change as to Montenegro. Minister of War is not to go, but another high functionary starts to replace Izzet Pasha as Governor of Scutari, and takes troops with him.

At the same time, the Sultan has changed his mind once more about the plan to be accepted, and sent round last night to Ambassadors to tell them he proposed now to execute Dulcigno arrangement at once, if Dinosi is left to the Turks.

As to Dinosi, see Mr. Green's despatch of the 20th May last.

Ambassadors are to meet this evening, but of course it is for their Governments to determine what to do.

We shall probably do no more than demand a written communication, and ourselves place on record, in writing, in the form of a memorandum, to be communicated to the Porte, the last two communications which have been made to us verbally.

No. 278.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13, 10·27 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 13, 1880, 5·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 3, M. Zancoff assures me that no arms or ammunition have arrived for Bulgarian Government, except those referred to in my despatch No. 125 of the 10th instant, which had been ordered by the Prince in January, and which have not been all delivered as yet.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 453), Sir A. Paget (No. 439), and the Earl of Dufferin (No. 500).

No. 279.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[a]

(No. 390.)

Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a draft of the instructions which Her Majesty's Government have prepared for the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station, in view of the possible failure of the Porte to have carried out the conditions of the Collective Note presented to the Turkish Government on the 3rd instant, with regard to the Montenegrin frontier, before the expiration of the period of three weeks therein indicated; and I have to request that you will communicate a copy of these instructions to the Russian Government, and inquire whether they are ready to send similar instructions to the Senior Naval Officer who may be in command of the ships of war which they may intend shall take part in the contemplated demonstration.

Her Majesty's Government would also be glad to be informed whether the Russian Government consider that it would be desirable to leave the decisions in ordinary matters to be decided by a majority of the Commanders, and any important difference of opinion referred to the respective Governments, or whether it would be better to come to an understanding that the Senior Officer in rank among the Admirals present should undertake the command of the united squadrons, consulting the other Admirals on all questions of a political character, or whether they have any other suggestion to make with regard to the command.

You are authorized to give a copy of this despatch to M. de Giers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Draft Instructions to the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Station.

Sir, , 1880.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith copies of notes which have been exchanged between the Representatives at Constantinople of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin and the Porte respecting the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier.

You will see from this correspondence, and from the other papers relating to the subject which have been forwarded to you, that the Porte has before it two proposals for the frontier: one for a cession of territory inland, north of Lake Scutari, to which it assented in the Agreement signed at Constantinople on the 18th April; and the other a proposal made by the Ambassadors on the 26th June for the surrender of a district comprising Dulcigno and a coast-line as far as the mouth of the Boyana, then following that river upwards to a point where a stream falls into it from Lake Sas, and thence following the south-eastern border of the Mirkovitch district to join the frontier as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

On the 3rd instant a collective communication, of which a copy is inclosed, was made to the Porte, in which the Ambassadors stated that unless the April Agreement was carried out within three weeks from the date of the communication the Porte would be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Dulcigno district under the alternative plan. The period of three weeks will expire on the 24th instant, and as the Porte has not yet carried out either of the proposals, Her Majesty's Government desire that you should be ready to proceed, on receiving orders by telegraph, with two of Her Majesty's ships of war and a despatch-vessel to Cattaro, where it has been agreed that there shall be a preliminary rendezvous of the naval forces of the other Treaty Powers.

On your arrival at Cattaro you should place yourself in communication with the Commanders of the squadrons of the other Powers represented, and it will be advisable that you should concert with them how the joint naval force may most effectively be displayed off Dulcigno on the 24th instant. You will then, in conjunction with the Commanders of the other squadrons, invite the nearest Turkish authorities to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Dulcigno district. If they consent, you will agree with the other Commanders as to the form in which a communication should be addressed to the Prince of Montenegro by the foreign Agents, stating that the Turkish authorities are prepared to surrender the district to him, and that the allied squadrons will remain off the town until the transfer has taken place.

[a] Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Macdonell.

It is possible that the Turkish authorities may reply that the Porte is willing to cede the district, but that it is prevented from doing so by the opposition of the population, or that if the district were ceded the Turkish authorities could not be responsible for the maintenance of public order. In that case you will invite the leaders of the Albanian clans, and any other local representatives of the population, to a meeting, at which they might be asked to state the conditions which would, in their opinion, render the transfer acceptable. It will be necessary that a safe-conduct should be given to them, and that they should be secured from being interfered with or influenced by the Turkish authorities.

From the reports which have been received by Her Majesty's Government, there is good reason to suppose that there will be little difficulty in bringing about such a meeting of the Albanian leaders. It is, moreover, believed that they would be disposed to come to an arrangement for a peaceful settlement of the frontier if they could be impressed with the inutility of resistance to the Powers, the expediency in their own interests of avoiding a contest, and the readiness of the Powers to do justice to them by securing them in possession of their rights of property, of the free exercise of their religion, and of their established privileges. The highland clans especially should be made to realize the impolicy of opposing at their own risk, and in opposition to the determined concert of the Powers, an arrangement which the Porte has expressed its willingness to accept. The means by which these considerations could be best brought to bear upon the Albanians must be left for decision on the spot, but the occasion is very favourable for meeting any reasonable wishes on the part of the Albanians for an improved system of local administration, since such wishes could be recommended to the International Commission which is now engaged at Constantinople in discussing, under the provisions of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the future government of the European provinces of Turkey.

If, however, the Turkish authorities should reply that they have no orders to surrender the district or to assist in its transfer, you will state that this answer cannot be accepted, and that unless a reply is given within three days they will be considered to have refused; and you are not authorized to enter into any discussion of fresh proposals for fixing the frontier.

You will at the same time consult the allied Commanders with regard to the best means which can be adopted for carrying out the Collective Note of the 3rd August, and report to Her Majesty's Government.

The real aim of Her Majesty's Government in taking part in this naval demonstration is not merely to place Montenegro in possession of the small district in question, but to impress upon the Porte and the Albanians that the Powers are united, and are determined to obtain the full execution of the Treaty of Berlin and the Award of the Berlin Conference.

The object of the demonstration will best be attained, and it will be most really successful if it affords a means for bringing the Albanians, North and South, to accept the decisions of the Powers.

As the Powers are in complete accord with regard to the policy to be pursued, Her Majesty's Government do not anticipate that there will be any difference of opinion among the officers in command of the different squadrons. On most matters it would be preferable that any decisions which may have to be arrived at should be come to by adopting the opinion of the majority present; but, should occasion arise when in your judgment, and in view of these instructions, you could not properly defer to the majority, you will endeavour to have the discussion adjourned, and refer the question for instructions. Her Majesty's Government, however, rely upon your tact and judgment; and are satisfied that you will pursue the most conciliatory course, and use every endeavour to obviate the inconvenience and delay which would be occasioned by references to the several Governments.

You will keep their Lordships fully informed by telegrams and by despatches with all that occurs, sending duplicates of all your communications to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 280.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 391.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further despatch which has been addressed to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station, and I have to request that you will call the attention of the Russian Government to the expediency of avoiding the appearance of the allied squadrons off the coast of South Albania while on their way to the Dulcigno coast, as any premature demonstration might have the effect of causing the Albanians to combine for resistance to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Draft of Letter to the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Station.

Sir, *Admiralty*, , 1880.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date, you will have observed that it has been agreed that the naval demonstration off the coast of Dulcigno shall be extended, if necessary, to a demonstration in regard to the Greek frontier question; but Her Majesty's Government consider that this question should be dealt with separately, and their Lordships therefore abstain from giving you any instructions upon it at the present time. In the meanwhile, it is desirable to avoid the appearance of the allied squadrons off the coast of South Albania while on their way to the Dulcigno coast, as any premature demonstration might have the effect of causing the Albanians to combine for resistance to Greece.

I am, &c.

No. 281.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 392.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

IT appears to Her Majesty's Government that it might be advantageous if, before proceeding to Cattaro, the allied squadrons, or some part of them, were to rendezvous in the first instance at Palermo.

The Admiral in command of Her Majesty's Mediterranean squadron is at present at Palermo with the vessels which it is intended should take part in the demonstration off Dulcigno, and I have to request you to suggest to the Russian Government that, if not inconvenient, their ships of war should also assemble there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 282.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 393 A.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government considered that the interest manifested by France in the question of the Greek frontier, and the active part which she took in bringing forward proposals for its settlement, rendered it a proper mark of respect to suggest to the French Government that they should draft the rejoinder to the Porte's note of the 27th ultimo on the decision of the Berlin Conference, and this view seems to have been shared by other Governments.

I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government attach no importance to the question of who should draft the note in question, provided that its substance

* Also to Mr. Adams, Mr. Macdonell, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.
† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and Mr. Macdonell.

is agreed to by the Powers, and, as the French Government appear reluctant to undertake the task, they will be ready either to prepare the draft themselves after learning the opinion of the Mediating Powers as to the tenure of the reply, or to agree that, as the collective note was drawn up by the Ambassadors at Berlin, the preparation of the rejoinder should be entrusted to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to ascertain from the Government whether they concur with Her Majesty's Government and that of France that the rejoinder should state that the decision of the Conference lately held at Berlin was arrived at after due deliberation, and after a careful consideration of the lines of frontier respectively put forward by the Turkish and Greek Governments; that the Mediating Powers cannot consent to reopen the discussion, but having approved the award of the Conference they must abide by its terms, and again recommend them to the Porte as being in conformity with the Treaty and Protocol of Berlin.

The note might go on to state that the Powers cannot, therefore, consent to authorize their Ambassadors to enter into any discussion on the subject of the frontier-line, although they are at liberty to entertain any proposals which the Porte may have to offer as to the best mode of effecting the evacuation of the territory by the Turkish authorities and surrendering it to Greece.

The substance of this despatch has been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 283.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 383.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have read with much interest the statement of your Excellency's views as to the Albanian question, contained in your despatch No. 178 of the 26th ultimo, and I have to express their thanks for your valuable suggestions.

You appear, however, to have misunderstood the object of Captain Sale's proposals as to the arguments that might be used to the Albanians to induce them not to oppose the surrender of the districts awarded to Greece by the Conference of Berlin.

He did not propose that they should be in any way threatened, but only that the risks they would run by an obstinate resistance to the decision of Europe should be pointed out to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 284.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 384.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

I HAVE given my best consideration to your Excellency's despatch No. 179 of the 27th ultimo relative to the question of the application of the Statute to be prepared under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin to the provinces inhabited by Albanians, and I agree with your Excellency that the possible future formation of one large Albanian province should be borne in mind as you suggest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 285.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 528.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1880.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform M. Gosling that Her Majesty's Government approve the language he has held to public men on the subject of the tone

of the Hungarian press towards England, as reported in his despatch No. 52 of the 31st ultimo, and which was inclosed in your despatch No. 443 of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 286.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 530.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a separate instruction which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have addressed to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean squadron, informing him that the Austro-Hungarian Government in consenting to take part in the naval demonstration off Dulcigno did so under the reserve which was accepted by the other Powers, that the Treaty Powers did not intend sending troops to be landed, and that an expedition up the Boyana is not included in the arrangement.

You may mention to the Austrian Government that this instruction has been sent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 286.

Draft of Letter to the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Station.

Admiralty, August , 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that in consenting to take part in the naval demonstration off Dulcigno the Austro-Hungarian Government did so under the reserve which was accepted by the other Powers, that the Treaty Powers do not intend sending troops to be landed, and that an expedition up the Boyana is not included in the arrangement.

You will accordingly bear this in mind when consulting with the other Commanders as to the best means which can be adopted for enforcing the surrender of the district; and you will also, in considering the measures to which it may be necessary to have recourse, give the preference to those which may inflict as little injury as possible upon non-combatants and neutral property.

I am, &c.

No. 287.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 1123.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of this day's date, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,† inclosing a copy of a separate instruction which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have addressed to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean squadron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 288.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 121.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

IN your despatch No. 253, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, you give your reasons for not joining with some of your colleagues in calling the attention of the Greek

* Also to Mr. Macdonell, Earl of Dufferin, and Lord Odo Russell. † No. 286.

Government to the absence of any acknowledgment, in their reply to the collective note, of the favour shown by the Powers at Berlin to the Greek cause, and I have to state that your proceedings in this matter are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 289.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 122.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 249 of the 21st ultimo, informing me of the steps taken by the Municipal Council of Athens to express their gratitude to the Powers for the award of the Berlin Conference, and I approve the conclusion come to by yourself and your colleagues to decline the invitation which you received to attend a fête in celebration of the event.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 290.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.**

(No. 126.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of instructions and their inclosures which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Vienna with regard to the proposed naval demonstration off the coast of Dulcigno.

I am &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 291.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 85.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to the preparation of a Statute for Albania by the East Roumelian Commission, I inclose, for any observation that you may have to offer, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lord E. Fitzmaurice,† containing information obtained from M. Christophorides, whose views as to the division of the country into provinces might, in his Lordship's opinion, be adopted by the Commission to the extent stated in his telegram No. 28 of the 23rd ultimo. A copy of this telegram is also annexed,‡ together with the Lebanon Règlements to which Lord E. Fitzmaurice refers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 292.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 87.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86 of this day's date, I inclose, for your information, a draft instruction to the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station, informing him that you will be instructed to place your services at his disposal in the event of the naval demonstration taking place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Kirby Green (No. 86).
† See Part I.I, No. 579. ‡ Ibid., No. 493.

No. 293.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 38.) *Medjingert, July 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I met General Zelenoy on the 27th instant at Sary Kamish, when we succeeded in describing a frontier line for Kotour, as being that which the former Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission had agreed upon, and in recommending it for acceptance by the Porte in a Protocol.

This document, together with two maps containing the proposed frontier-line rolled in a separate parcel, was dispatched yesterday to your Lordship, together with a despatch on the subject, by way of Tiflis, the Russian Commissioner undertaking to forward them by courier to Kars, where they would be posted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

P.S.—My despatch from Sary Kamish should have been numbered "37."

E. B. H.

No. 294.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 244. Political.) *Scutari, August 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I am informed that the negotiations between the Sultan's Palace and the Albanian Committee of Prisrend are still actively going on.

A proposal appears to have been recently received from Constantinople by the Committee with regard to the constitution of an united Albanian province with its seat of Government at Monastir; but it has been rejected, and a counter-proposal was sent a day or two ago to the Palace that Ochrida should be chosen as the capital, and that the Governor-General should have the complete control of the appointment of the Mutessarifs under his orders. The Committee in putting forward this plan added that the acceptance of it would ensure to the Sultan, in case of need, from the Sandjak of Prisrend alone, a force of 30,000 properly equipped men.

This estimate of the strength of the district in question is greatly exaggerated, for, by competent judges, it is believed incapable of turning out more than 12,000 men. The pretension of the Prisrend Committee to settle the form of Government for the whole of Albania is probably equally ill-founded, as, hitherto, the other Albanian districts have been disinclined to admit the claims of Prisrend to be considered purely Albanian, and, in moments of less union among the Mussulmans, it has generally been looked down upon as of Servian origin and proclivities.

The fact that it has been chosen by the Palace as the fulcrum whereon to work the contemplated Mohammedan organization of an Albanian opposed to all civilizing Christian innovations is in support of the mixed origin of the nationality of its inhabitants, and shows that the Palace has a knowledge of it, and hopes by it to gain the acceptance of a centre of Government which will embrace large extents of country peopled by Slav and Bulgarian-Mussulmans, and which would certainly be left aside if a real Albanian capital was selected, as, for instance, Berat.

The Prisrend Committee, whilst being willing to extend the limits of Albania, evidently wishes to avoid too close a contact with a military centre like Monastir, which is the head-quarters of the 3rd Army Corps; hence its proposal in favour of Ochrida. Pending a decision, it has refused to accept a Governor, who is a native of Monastir, and who has been recently appointed to Prisrend by the Porte.

The most likely outcome of the irregular transactions of the Sultan's Palace with the so-called Albanian representatives will be that the Turkish Government will, ere long, find that it has been deprived of even the limited control it possessed over these wild peoples, notwithstanding their adhesion to the faith of Islam.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 295.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 724.) *Paris, August 13, 1880.*

My Lord,

IMMEDIATELY on receipt yesterday morning of your Lordship's despatch No. 1100 of the 11th instant I wrote a note to M. de Freycinet, communicating to him a copy of the draft instruction which forms the inclosure to your despatch, and which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Her Majesty's Representatives at the Courts of the Powers who are constituted mediators in the question of the Greek frontier by the Treaty of Berlin.

I informed M. de Freycinet that I was instructed by your Lordship to lose no time in calling upon him and asking whether he concurred in the draft, and I requested him to be so good as to inform me when it would be convenient for him to receive me with reference to the matter in question.

In the evening a note reached me from M. de Freycinet, the substance of which I telegraphed to your Lordship, and a copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith.

Your Lordship will see that M. de Freycinet has no observation to make on the terms of the proposed instruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 295.

M. de Freycinet to Mr. Adams.

Paris, le 12 Août, 1880.

Mon cher M. Adams,

EN réponse à votre communication de ce jour, je m'empresse de vous informer que je n'ai aucune observation à faire sur les termes des instructions que Lord Granville se propose d'adresser à ses Ambassadeurs, relativement à la question Grecque, et que nos vues sont entièrement conformes aux idées développées dans ce projet.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 296.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 725.) *Paris, August 13, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that, when I saw M. de Freycinet this morning, I commenced our conversation by thanking his Excellency for the promptness with which he had replied by his note of yesterday evening to my communication of the draft instruction now proposed to be addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives with reference to the Greek Frontier question.

I then went on to say that it might be well that I should state to his Excellency the reasons which had induced Her Majesty's Government to propose that the collective rejoinder of the Powers to the reply of the Porte on the subject of this question should be drafted by the French Government.

I therefore recapitulated to his Excellency the second and third paragraphs of your Lordship's despatch No. 1087 of the 9th instant, which reached me yesterday morning.

M. de Freycinet observed that he quite understood and appreciated the friendly feeling which had prompted Her Majesty's Government in their invitation to the French Government in this matter, and he added that if it had been merely a question on which the two Governments were acting alone together he should not have had a moment's hesitation in acceding to your Lordship's request, but he had felt that, as Her Majesty's present Government had taken the initiative in the negotiations, public opinion would certainly be alarmed if, all at once, it learned that the initiative had been handed over to France; that this was his only reason; that the French Government were quite determined to act in common with the other Powers, and that, in fact, it did not really matter by

whom the form of words was drawn up, so long as all the Powers joined in the collective note, as finally settled by them.

I said that, as far as that was concerned, Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that it mattered little by whom the actual form of words to be employed was drawn up in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 297.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 727.) *Paris, August* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

AFTER the conversation which I have reported in my despatch No. 725 of to-day's date, I said to M. de Freycinet that I wished to bring to his notice a change in the attitude of the Porte on the Montenegrin frontier question, which had been reported to your Lordship by Mr. Goschen, who stated that he had heard verbally from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Porte's intention to send the Minister of War with 4,000 men to Scutari immediately, in order, if possible, to carry out the Corti arrangement, and that, if this could not be done in three weeks, the Porte intended to accept the Dulcigno proposal, and ask for another three weeks to carry it out. I added that your Lordship had received from Vienna and Rome similar reports of Abédine Pasha's language.

His Excellency remarked that he too had similar information.

I then went on to say that Mr. Goschen had also reported to Her Majesty's Government that serious doubts were now entertained at the Porte of the continued firmness in the attitude of the Cabinets, and that this made it particularly desirable that no change of tone should appear, but that the same united language should be held by all the Powers in common.

M. de Freycinet assured me that he entirely shared this opinion. He said that only two days ago he had declared, in the most positive terms, to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the Porte was doing herself very great injury by speculating upon dissensions among the Powers; that no such dissensions existed, and that the European concert continued complete; that the Powers were all determined to go on together to the end.

M. de Freycinet further told me that he had several times given stringent instructions to M. Tissot to hold similar language to the Turkish officials, whenever an opportunity occurred, and he begged me to assure your Lordship most positively that the French Government were determined to persist in the firm attitude which they had taken up, and to act in perfect concert with all the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 298.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 728. Very Confidential.) *Paris, August* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING our interview this morning M. de Freycinet spoke to me several times of the wish and determination of the French Government to join in the concert of Powers in the steps to be taken with regard to the present crisis of the Eastern question, and of its especial desire to act in all matters cordially and intimately with Her Majesty's Government.

I took an opportunity of saying that I was very glad to hear such language from his lips, and I ventured to add, speaking, of course, very confidentially, and, as I remarked, with the utmost frankness, that there certainly had been a moment when a feeling had arisen on the part of my Government that France was holding somewhat back, and, in support and justification of this feeling, I instanced what had passed when his Excellency had demanded an assurance from the Powers that, with reference to the proposed naval demonstration off Dulcigno, they would agree to act in a similar manner, if necessary, in the matter of the Greek frontier question, and I further alluded to the slight misunderstanding with reference to the sense to be applied to the word "assisting" in the

collective note to the Porte about the Montenegrin frontier question, a misunderstanding which had happily been cleared up.

M. de Freycinet would not admit that there had been any drawing back on the part of the French Government, and he contended that their policy had been the same throughout, a policy dictated by prudence indeed, such as the peculiar position of France required, but at the same time a policy of perfect accord with the other Powers.

As to England, he went on to say, with unusual earnestness and some warmth of manner, he had the greatest admiration for that country. He had spent some months there, and though not conversant with our language, he had, by visiting its centres of industry and manufacture, conceived a high idea of its greatness. He had consequently always felt that France's best policy was an intimate alliance with England on all questions; the two countries were neighbours, the increased facilities of intercourse of late years and the development of commercial relations were binding the two nations more closely together, and the old prejudices had faded away and disappeared.

In conclusion, I beg to state that, whatever M. de Freycinet's policy may have been, and whatever influences may have worked upon him quite lately, certainly, so far as words go and sincerity of manner, he does appear to me to manifest a strong desire to act in particular unison with Her Majesty's Government at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 299.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received August* 14.)

(Confidential.) *Admiralty, August* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs dated the 12th instant, forwarding copy of a collective note which was presented to the Porte by Her Majesty's Ambassador and the other Ambassadors of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin on the 3rd August, in which it is stated that unless the Convention with regard to the frontier of Montenegro of the 18th April last is carried out within three weeks of the date of the note, the Porte will be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the district of Dulcigno.

My Lords desire me to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that they will be prepared to give the necessary instructions to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean to take part in the naval demonstration which it is intended should be made by the allied squadrons off the coast of Dulcigno, on hearing that they have been finally settled by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 300.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14, 4·54 A.M.)

(No. 173.) *Therapia, August* 13, 1880, *midnight.*
(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the Ambassadors this evening it was agreed to send the following telegram to our Governments:—

"Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced to us verbally that the Porte is ready to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement under two conditions: first, that Dinosi and Gruda should be left to Turkey; and, second, that term of some weeks should be allowed for its execution.

"His Excellency added that if an understanding should not be arrived at on these bases, and if the Powers made a demonstration, the Ottoman Government would not take part in it. As this communication was only made verbally, and in terms which were not very precise, we have thought it necessary to invite the Porte to address a written note to us."

No. 301.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14, 4·54 A.M.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 13, 1880, 11·55 P.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, your Lordship ought further to know that Minister for Foreign Affairs has given us to understand very clearly that we must not expect the troops sent to Scutari to be employed actively in coercing the Albanians. He says that the Porte has received worse news from those districts, which makes them hopeless of being able to deliver positions occupied by Albanians, and it is now clear that the authorities will fear to fire a shot, and have no intention of doing so.

No. 302.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14, 5·14 A.M.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 13, 1880, *midnight.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 80 of the 10th August from Stephen, M. de Giers states positively that Russia has not only the intention, but possesses ample power to prevent revolutionary action on the part of the Bulgarians. He says that the present temper of the Emperor is very moderate, and that, whatever the distant future may bring forth, His Majesty has abandoned even the desire of seeing the union of Roumelia and Bulgaria.

No. 303.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14, 5·17 A.M.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 13, 1880, *midnight.*

WITH reference to Goschen's No. 167 of the 10th August, M. de Giers has received a similar communication from M. de Novikoff. He has not answered it, but I find him less adverse to considering new Turkish proposal about Montenegro than I had anticipated. I have taken occasion, in accordance with the instructions in your No. 494 [?], to insist on the necessity of the Cabinets displaying firmness and a united front to the Porte in reference to the pending settlements, and I have also informed M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government think it desirable that the Powers should abide by the terms of their last collective note with regard to Montenegro, as intimated in your No. 385 to Goschen. M. de Giers announces that Russia is ready to send ships, but suggests that it is time to come to an arrangement as to the supreme command of the international fleet, and says that the Emperor would be ready to put his vessels under the command of an English Admiral. M. de Giers thinks that the naval demonstration should take place, even though the Porte should promise to yield.

No. 304.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 14, 1880.

IN the absence of Prince Hohenlohe, I have communicated your Lordship's telegram No. 400 of yesterday to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will submit it to his Highness when he returns.

My impression is that German Government will agree to your Lordship's proposed rejoinder to the Porte respecting Greece.

No. 305.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Volo, August* 14, 1880.

CAPTAIN SWAINE reports that since 28th ultimo 2,400 men have passed through Volo home again, 1,600 [? have] arrived. Soldiers are discontented, and many have deserted; the old men are clamouring for their discharge; rations are scanty and bad; contractors refuse supplying troops; supply of ammunition in province fair; none lately imported.

The fresh arrivals appear intended rather as an exchange for the discontented, who are being discharged, than as a reinforcement to the army in Thessaly.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 306.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 14, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, August* 14, 1880, 11 A.M.

COMMISSION'S business finished. I start to-day for Tiflis.

No. 307.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 393.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

CAPTAIN SALE writes that if Riza Pasha, who was his colleague last year, is being sent to superintend the cession of territory to Montenegro, it is not probable that he will do more than he can help for that purpose, as he is violently opposed to the Montenegrins.

No. 308.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 385.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 184 of the 27th ultimo respecting the views entertained by your colleagues as to the mode of replying to the Turkish note on the alleged outrages in Bulgaria, and I approve the language which you held respecting the Porte's complaints of the treatment of the Mahommedans in that Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 309.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 394.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day and read to me the telegram of which a copy is inclosed, stating that the Russian Government had received a communication from the Porte expressing a wish that the examination of the Turco-Greek question should be entrusted to the Representatives at Constantinople, on account of the great number of local and special questions concerned in it.

This proposal appeared to the Russian Government to be an indirect attempt to establish the principle of a negotiation which would postpone the summons to be addressed to Turkey; and they had replied that they would come to an understanding with the other Cabinets, and that the decision would be a collective one. Prince Labanoff was instructed to ask the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I said that I had received a similar communication from the Porte, and that I took

the same view of it as the Russian Government, but that I expected in a few days to consult the other Powers formally as to the answer to be returned to the recent note of the Porte on the Greek frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 310.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 88.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction the report which you give in your despatch No. 231 of the 25th ultimo of the religious toleration extended by the Prince of Montenegro to all his subjects, and of His Highness' desire to conform to the spirit of the XXVIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 311.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 102.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE been glad to learn, by your despatch No. 107 of the 9th ultimo, that Nihat Pasha was satisfied with the steps taken by the Bulgarian Government for relieving the refugees, and that M. Zancoff had assured you that further measures were contemplated in this direction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 312.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 68.) *Scutari, August* 14, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram No. 62 of the 29th ultimo, first instalment of Prisrend contingent of 150 men has arrived, rest expected to follow in a few days.

Volunteers also said to be coming from Dibra.

Authorities here give out that [?] is coming from Constantinople to induce tribes to accept cessions of April Convention.

The Roman Catholic mountaineers are more than ever determined to resist, and it must be either none or the whole of the tribes who are to become Montenegrin.

They have, on the other hand, decided not to interfere in any way with cessions in direction of Dulcigno, and there is a decided local feeling in favour of that arrangement, which the Turkish authorities oppose.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 313.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

Canea, Crete, August 14, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH transport has just left Suda Bay with two battalions for Scutari.

No. 314.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 102.) *Rome, August* 14, 1880, 11·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 439.

Count Maffei says that, if all the other Powers agree, Italian Government can but concur with Her Majesty's Government as to the tenour of the rejoinder to the Porte with regard to the Greek Frontier question, and will instruct the Ambassadors at Berlin and Constantinople as may be required.

No. 315.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 33. Confidential.) *Athens, August* 15, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

FROM tenour of correspondence of M. Contostavlos, M. Tricoupi infers that your Lordship thinks there was a desire on part of Greek Government to throw on Her Majesty's Government responsibility of what might occur by postponing the mobilizing of the army. His Excellency is very anxious to remove this opinion if it exists, and has requested me to inform your Lordship that the communications made on the subject to Her Majesty's Government were with reference to internal considerations only, and the mobilization was desired in order that the Government should have their hands free and be in a position to act when necessary.

No. 316.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15, 11 P.M.)

(No. 175.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1880, 1 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Green, dated to-day:—

"The present difficulty is the inclusion of Dinosi and Gruda in the Dulcigno arrangement. In other respects Ottoman Government would now carry out that plan."

No. 317.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 272.) *Athens, August* 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy and translation of the Decree signed by the King at Copenhagen on the 20th ultimo, convoking the Chamber for the 20th proximo in ordinary Session.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 317.

Decree for the Convocation of the 2nd Session of the 8th Parliamentary Period.

(Translation.)

GEORGE I, King of the Hellenes.

Having under consideration Article 37 of the Constitution, we convoke the Chamber at Athens on the $\frac{8}{20}$th September of this year.

The President of our Ministerial Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and, *pro interim*, Minister of Finance, will be charged with the publication and execution of the present Decree.

Copenhagen, July $\frac{8}{20}$, 1880.

(Signed) GEORGE.

(Countersigned) CH. TRICOUPIS.

No. 318.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 273.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Decree signed by the King of the Hellenes, dated Copenhagen, 20th ultimo, mobilizing the army.

By Article 1 the army is mobilized, and can, according to the wants of the service, be increased to 60,000 men.

Articles 2, 3, and 4 relate to the composition of this force of 60,000 men.

Article 5 states the classes that are to be called out, in accordance with circumstances—eight classes, or all men liable for active service between the ages of 23 and 30 inclusive.

Article 6 states that the different classes are called out, as required, at once, or in succession one to the other.

Articles 7 and 8 state that those men aged 31 and 32 may be called out to serve in their respective provinces as gendarmerie.

Article 9. Thessalians and Epirotes are accepted for voluntary enlistment for six months, one, two, or three years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 319.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 268 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Tricoupi told me to-day that, at this moment, the number of trained soldiers under arms is 15,600; in a month they would amount to 30,000, one-half of whom would be untrained; in two months they would amount to 40,000.

There was also a Reserve of from 20,000 to 25,000 men, who had been trained, and were ready to be called out at the last moment, when active measures were called for: altogether, 60,000 men, who would be ready for service after an interval of two months from the present time. A further levy of the number required for service in the interior of Greece and for garrison duty could also be made, if necessary. These latter would number about 60,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 320.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, August 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the enrolment of recruits and volunteers in the Ionian Islands is being carried out with considerable assiduity, and that the point of concentration is Corfu.

Some 200 of each category have already arrived, and are being actively drilled.

I hear, however, that the measure is extremely unpopular amongst the natives of the Ionian Islands in general, who appear to be greatly alarmed at the prospect held out to them of Greece having to take possession of the territory assigned to it unaided from abroad.

The volunteers, I am told, have only been persuaded to offer themselves by, for them, large offers of remuneration, and as they are from the lowest class of the population, it is said that to prevent them from desertion, should the moment for action arrive, will be a matter of difficulty for the authorities.

The statement of the Athens newspapers, to the effect that Greece does not fear carrying out the views of the Great Powers as to the new frontier, has greatly alarmed the Ionians, who, one and all, openly declare that without foreign assistance it would be an act of madness in Greece to face the Turks, whom the Russians, with their hosts, had so much difficulty in vanquishing during the late war. I give your Lordship their very words as related to, and even heard by, me.

They are also much alarmed at the expenses that are being made by the Government, which they evidently fear will ultimately weigh on them.

It is not unnatural, my Lord, that the Greeks, however high-spirited and brave they may be, and considering the relative populations of the two countries, should doubt their being able to cope with the Turks, and the more so as they fear that the Christians in Turkey, being, as it were, in the lion's den, may be afraid of exposing themselves to the anger and despair of the Mussulmans, most of whom, I hear, nothing can persuade that they will not be driven from all they possess in the world to beggary, and perhaps death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 321.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 16.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 2 Août, 1880.*

PAR ses communications précédentes, mon Département vous a fait connaître la triste situation créée en Bulgarie aux propriétaires Musulmans.

Nos dernières informations présentent cette situation comme devenant intolérable. Les difficultés qu'on rencontrait dans la constatation des droits de propriété ne font que s'accentuer chaque jour davantage; les autorités Princières paraissent avoir pris le parti de favoriser ouvertement une classe de population au détriment d'une autre. En un mot, les propriétaires Musulmans sont condamnés à se voir dépouillés de tous leurs biens.

En présence de cette criante injustice et vu le résultat négatif des efforts tentés jusqu'à présent dans le but de remédier au mal, nous croyons devoir dénoncer aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin une politique si contraire aux dispositions les plus formelles de cet Acte international qui garantit aux Musulmans la libre et complète jouissance de leurs propriétés. Je suis persuadé que les Cabinets voudront bien, dans leurs sentiments d'équité, prendre en main la cause des victimes. C'est dans cette conviction que nous proposons la réunion d'une Commission composée de MM. les Consuls à Sophia à l'effet de concerter les mesures les plus propres à sauvegarder les droits des propriétaires Musulmans en Bulgarie.

Je vous prie de faire une démarche dans ce sens auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et de m'en faire connaître le résultat.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 322.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16, 2 P.M.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 15, 1880, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE received a note from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 13th, asking me to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the want of confidence felt by the Prince in the proposal of Porte to send to Scutari the Minister of War, accompanied by a considerable force, to endeavour to put into execution the April Convention.

The Prince considers that Minister of War's antecedents are sufficient to cast doubts on his mission, and that the proposed increase of the Turkish military force is really intended to facilitate ulterior hostile measures against the Principality. The reservation of the Porte to execute the Dulcigno cession, should those of the Convention prove impracticable, the Prince says categorically will not be accepted if it is attempted to withhold the surrender of Dinoschi; and, although I am convinced the April Convention cannot be carried out, still I am of opinion that Montenegro should not be allowed further interference with the arrangements the Powers may think expedient to make. The Porte, however, can very well also avoid raising difficulties about so small a matter as Dinoschi.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 323.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 16, 1880.*

IF all the other Governments agree to the answer about the Greek frontier proposed in your Lordship's telegram No. 453, the Austrian Government will be ready to join in it.

No. 324.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16, 11 P.M.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 16, 1880, 6 P.M.*

PRINCE of Montenegro has telegraphed that Gruda is not within the territory to be ceded, and that Janosch is a small, ruined, and indefensible village, consequently he would not be averse to closing with the new Turkish proposition.

The Russian Government seem inclined to state forcibly that Europe must adhere to its original demands, but that, if the Turks will proceed to put Montenegro in immediate possession of Dulcigno, it would be so far satisfactory.

No. 325.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16, 1 P.M.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 16, 1880, 8 A.M.*

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he has been instructed to obtain concurrence of Italian Government to the following Turkish proposal:—

The Porte to execute Dulcigno Arrangement, less the cession of Dinosi and Gruda, and a further delay of a few weeks [to] be granted for its execution.

M. de Freycinet suggests acceptance of this plan, with a view to claiming the above places when the surrender of the Dulcigno territory has been effected.

Count Maffei has accepted.

No. 326.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 16, 1880.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires tells me that, in conversation with Count Maffei, the latter gave it as his personal opinion that the rejoinder which your Lordship proposes to send with regard to the Greek frontier settlement was too harsh, considering the sacrifices demanded from Turkey; that, in consequence of your Lordship's telegram No. 439, the Italian Government could not do otherwise than give their assent.

No. 327.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 16, 1880, 7 A.M.*

TURKISH frigate arrived here 14th from Dédéagatch with a battalion of infantry on board, coaled and shipped another battalion about 650 strong and 2,000 sacks of flour, and sailed last night for Dulcigno. Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Falcon" arrived here 13th, and sailed for Volo yesterday evening.

No. 328.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 510.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1880, 4·35 P.M.*

YOURS No. 128.

Proposed draft instructions to British Admiral were sent to St. Petersburgh and other Courts by post on Friday for concurrence, with a despatch asking the opinion of the Powers as to the command of the ships.

No. 329.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 389.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1880, 6·45 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 385.

Have instructions in sense of Mr. Macdonell's telegram No. 103 been sent to French Chargé d'Affaires at Rome?

No. 330.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 535.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that the Austro-Hungarian Government are of the same opinion as themselves with regard to the importance of the Cabinets remaining firm in their attitude towards the Porte, and I have to request that you will inform M. Kallay in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 331.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 537.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that M. Hengelmüller has told me that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople has informed his Government that the Porte had not yet given an official answer to the Montenegrin collective note, but that she desired to end this affair quickly by the acceptance of the Dulcigno arrangement; and that, in order to do so and accelerate matters, she had expressed the wish that one Ambassador should be invited to negotiate on behalf of his colleagues.

The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires went on to say that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Constantinople had been authorized, in case the reply of the Porte to the note should be what she had led his Government to expect, to consult forthwith with his colleagues, and to converse upon the Montenegrin conditions and guarantees, in order to insure the actual surrender of the territory to be ceded within three weeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 332.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 538.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1880.*

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has stated to me that his Government would agree to any mode of procedure which might tend to accelerate a satisfactory termination to the negotiations with the Porte in the Montenegrin question. With that view, therefore, they would be willing to consent, conjointly with the other Powers, to my suggestion that the German Ambassador should, in his capacity as Doyen, present a Memorandum to the Porte on behalf of his colleagues. The Austro-Hungarian Government think, however, that, as the majority of the Ambassadors at Constantinople have been instructed by their

respective Governments to stipulate among themselves as to the guarantees to be obtained from the Porte in order to insure the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement, the mode of procedure in the negotiations with the Turkish Government should likewise be left in the hands of the various Representatives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 333.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 395. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 16, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador spoke to me to-day on the subject of the correspondence just laid before Parliament respecting the Unionist movement in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria. His Excellency did not object to anything in the papers that had been published, but he thought the less the subject was mooted the better. The Russian Government were exerting all their influence to discourage any action in this direction, and their efforts were having the desired effect; but considerable excitement prevailed among the Bulgarian populations both of the province and of the Principality, and they were driven to absolute madness at any prospect of the Balkans being garrisoned by Turkish troops according to the right reserved to the Sultan in the Treaty of Berlin.

It was desirable, therefore, in the interest of tranquillity, that the public discussion of the question should, as far as possible, be avoided.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 334.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1132.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 16, 1880.

IT would appear from a report which I have received from Mr. Macdonell that the French Chargé d'Affaires had informed him that he had been instructed to obtain the concurrence of the Italian Government to the following Turkish proposal:—

"The Porte to execute Dulcigno arrangement, less the cession of Dinosi and Gruda, and a further delay of a few weeks to be granted for its execution."

M. de Freycinet was stated to suggest acceptance of this plan, with a view to claiming the above places when the surrender of the Dulcigno territory has been effected; and Mr. Macdonell reports that Count Maffei has accepted this proposal.

I have to request that you will ascertain whether instructions in the sense of Mr. Macdonell's report have been sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Rome.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 335.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1132A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 16, 1880.

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day and communicated to me a suggestion from his Government as to the answer to be returned to the latest proposal of the Porte with regard to the Montenegrin frontier. This was to the effect that the Powers should call upon the Turkish Government at once to give up the territory which they expressed themselves willing to cede, but should maintain the right of the Prince of Montenegro to claim the two villages as to the surrender of which the Porte made difficulties.

I said that I must defer making any positive reply to this proposal until I had learned the opinion of other Powers, but that at present I inclined to adhering to the programme laid down in the collective note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 336.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 6, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 204 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the telegraphic reply I have received from Mr. Stephen respecting the orders to the East Roumelian reservists, which Mr. Consul Brophy reported to have been issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Mr. Stephen to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August* 2, 1880.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL and Commandant of Militia deny positively that any order has been given to reservists to hold themselves ready to muster with arms and three days' rations.

I telegraphed last night to Brophy in this sense. He replies repeating his statement, but again omitting to give his authority. He stated, however, that his information is to be relied on, and added that Russian Captain commanding 12 battalions at Bourgas gave order to town reserve.

Russian [? Consul], dining with me to-night, admitted that Russian sergeants have been engaged for Roumelian militia.

No. 337.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 226. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Midhat Pasha, the Vali of Syria, has been transferred in the same capacity to the Vilayet of Aidin, of which Smyrna is the seat of government, and that Hamdi Pasha, the Vali of Aidin, is to replace Midhat Pasha in Syria.

I have not been able to obtain any very reliable explanation of the reason for the change, beyond the fact that rumours have been spread of intrigues on the part of Midhat Pasha in Syria.

It is said to be considered that he will be less able to make his influence felt in Aidin than in Syria.

Your Lordship is doubtless aware of the counter-view, namely, that Midhat Pasha has been hopelessly obstructed at Constantinople in all his projects of reform, and is proportionately in disgrace on account of his reforming tendencies.

Whatever view may be taken of Midhat Pasha's capacity and merits in past times, I am bound to say that much evidence is produced to show that he has somewhat degenerated. Hamdi Pasha is said to be both an able and honest man.

Another very important change has been made among the Governors-General. Raouf Pasha, the able and vigorous Governor of Adrianople, in whose praise Mr. Calvert, our Consul at Adrianople, has so often spoken in his despatches to your Lordship, has been recalled and replaced by Ali Pasha, ex-President of the Council of State.

His Excellency Abédine Pasha has informed me that Raouf Pasha had, on eight different occasions, asked to be relieved of his office, and that, after having refused his resignation before, the Porte had now complied with his wish. But I did not fail to let his Excellency know that the version which I had received was in substance to the effect that Raouf Pasha had repeatedly and urgently asked for leave of absence, which was absolutely indispensable to recruit his health, which was very much shattered, and that this leave of absence had been refused him over and over again, and that he had thus been driven, as, indeed, the only way of saving his life, to resign. It must, I fear, be admitted as almost beyond doubt that the Porte have made a point of getting rid of Raouf Pasha, who was too independent.

Some time ago, when a rumour of the probable removal or resignation of Raouf Pasha was afloat, I expressed my hope to Abédine Pasha that it was not true, as I heard on all sides how much satisfaction the Governor-General of Adrianople was giving under very trying circumstances.

Abédine Pasha replied that it was not at all clear that Raouf Pasha was giving equal satisfaction to Mussulmans as to the Representatives of the foreign Powers at Adrianople.

Ali Pasha, the new Governor, is said to be an honest and good man, but without any energy or firmness of character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 338.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 227.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 216 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a memorandum which was unofficially communicated to the Porte on the previous day, explaining the line of frontier proposed under the new arrangement, to the east as well as to the west of Lake Scutari, for the settlement of the Montenegrin question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Memorandum.

LA frontière méridionale de la Principauté de Monténégro partirait de la Mer Adriatique à l'embouchure de la Boyana. Elle remonterait le thalweg de cette rivière jusqu'au confluent d'un petit cours d'eau qui traverse le Lac Sas, et qui porte, dans sa partie supérieure, le nom de Rivière Megured.

A partir de ce confluent elle suivrait la ligne naturelle la plus directe pour atteindre le point le plus avancé vers l'est du tracé proposé en 1879 par M. le Commissaire de Russie, et qui porte, sur la Carte de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, le nom de Crevoni Hamon. La frontière suivrait ensuite le tracé Russe jusqu'à hauteur du Point XI (entre Bretovica et Mali Pan) de la carte de M. le Capitaine Sale; à partir de ce point jusqu'au Point XVIII de la même carte (Gorica Topal) elle se confondrait avec la ligne adoptée par la majorité de la Commission Européenne.

La frontière traverserait ensuite en ligne directe le Lac de Scutari pour venir aboutir sur la rive droite au Point XIX de la carte du Capitaine Sale (Plavnica de la Carte Autrichienne). A partir du Point XIX elle suivrait jusqu'au Point XXIII le tracé adopté par la majorité de la Commission, et du XXIIIe au XXIVe (point situé sur le Zem au nord de Roguna) la ligne sur laquelle se sont partagés en nombre égal les votes des Commissaires.

A l'est du Point XXIV la ligne de démarcation reprendrait le tracé Russe jusqu'à Suka-i-Gruda sur la frontière méridionale de la Kucka-Krajna; elle suivrait cette limite telle qu'elle a été vérifiée par la Commission jusqu'au Point XL (Lac Prisavec), et gagnerait directement Planinica, suivant la ligne également arrêtée par les Commissaires.

A partir de Planinica, le tracé indiqué dans la Convention du 18 Avril pourrait être intégralement maintenu.

No. 339.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk respecting Bulgarian military preparations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, July 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in continuation of Nos. 25 and 26, that a person in whom I have confidence went lately to Tirnovo, and writes, that at Bela he met an

agent for the enrolment of volunteers, with whom he had a long conversation, from which it transpired that he was commissioned from Roumelia, with the consent (or at least without any opposition from the Government of Bulgaria) to make the enrolments.

Up till the other day the number of volunteers who have passed through Tirnovo going south amount to over 1,000, and I believe these are quite different from those who have been passing Shumla.

Besides the volunteers, I am informed that at Tirnovo there is a continual passage of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers going towards Slivno.

The "Opit," towing a lighter, arrived on Wednesday the 21st from Reni, with about 200 non-commissioned officers and a full cargo of ammunition; of the latter, about 1,600 boxes were landed, and a considerable quantity was transferred to the "Goluptchik." The lighter was loaded with rifles, and on the 23rd both left for Widdin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 340.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches respecting the military preparations of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 340.

Mr. Vincent to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, August 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the past week the Porte has continued its military preparations with vigour, and has displayed increased rather than diminished activity in making ready against the eventuality of war.

Seven or eight ships have left Consantinople for Volo and Prevesa with troops, stores, and ammunition; among others, two steamers of the Austrian Lloyd Company of large size, and the iron-clad gun-boat "Ester," the latter being intended, it is believed, for service on the Gulf of Arta. It is further reported that a frigate having on board one of the highest officials from the Seraskierate and 1,500 men is to sail to-morrow for Dulcigno.

With regard to the quality of the troops sent to Thessaly and Epirus, they are, for the greater part, recruits, almost entirely without military training. On the other hand, the authorities there have been obliged to discharge a considerable number of men who have served their time with the regular army ("Nizam-neskeri"), and whose discontent at being kept from their homes, unpaid and badly fed, has led to a considerable amount of insubordination and desertion. In Epirus, between the 15th July and the 3rd August, out of a total force not exceeding 14,000 men, 3,500 were discharged, a number more than equal to that of the recruits who joined during the same period. On the whole, therefore, the result of these movements has been to weaken the force available for immediate action on the Greek frontier, both in efficiency and, to a lesser degree, in numbers. The advantage gained is that the malcontents have been separated from the active army, and that, should the crisis be postponed so as to allow time for the recruits to be trained, the Empire will dispose of a larger number of exercised men.

Ammunition and provisions have been sent to the frontier in such quantities as to lead to the conclusion that the chief fear of the Turkish military authorities is lest their communications by sea should be cut off, and that they are endeavouring to secure themselves against this danger by storing at Volo, Larissa, and Prevesa a stock of all the necessaries of war sufficient to last for several months.

The order to levy 40,000 recruits has been executed with widely differing results in the different provinces.

In some the number of men inscribed on the register who did not present themselves as ordered was considerable; in Syria amounting to nearly 50 per cent. In other provinces almost the entire number appeared, a result highly creditable, when it is

considered that in the present state of the country, without either police or gendarmerie, an absentee could count with certainty upon evading punishment.

With regard to the forces on the Greek side, I learn on good authority that a corps of Epirotes, favourable to Greece, 600 strong has been formed at Karavasara, south of the Gulf of Arta, and that a similar corps is in process of formation at Corfu, between twenty and thirty volunteers coming over from the mainland every day.

These corps, however, are not all to be found on the side of the Greeks. The Tchamours, one of the three great Tosk tribes, who inhabit the district lying along the coast of the Adriatic, are reported to be able to put 5,000 men, armed with modern rifles and plentifully supplied with ammunition, in the field at one, and prepared to resist the cession to the uttermost.

At Janina several irregular corps have been formed of Northern and Central Albanians, under Abdul Bey, who acts in accordance with instructions from Hidayet Pasha, the Commander of the frontier army.

These corps are to be dispatched shortly southwards to watch the passes which lead from Greece into Thessaly and Epirus.

In the course of the next week I propose to prepare a map showing the number and position of the Turkish troops on the Greek frontier, so far as they are ascertainable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT,
Coldstream Guards.

Inclosure 2 in No. 340.

Memorandum by Mr. Vincent.

(Confidential.) *Buyukdéré, August 7, 1880.*

I HAVE received a letter from Woods Bey in which he gives the following information, and requests that I will convey it to your Excellency:—

"The Mahsoussieh Company, which is supposed to have an independent existence, but is in reality under arsenal control, has contracted with Messrs. John Rowell and Co. for 25,000 tons of coal to be delivered as required in quantity and place. The terms are for cash.

"The 'Sulpich,' one of their steamers, is to be dispatched shortly round the Barbary coast, touching at Crete, the first of a new line to be thus opened. As far as I can see, this contract is simply to keep the Company going, and can only be considered a military measure in the light of these vessels being practically transports.

"The other contract has fallen through for want of money. It was for 10,000 tons, ten steamer cargoes, five for Constantinople, and five for the following ports: Volo, Mourto Bay, Suda, Smyrna, Dardanelles."

Woods Bey concludes by promising further information respecting the condition of the ships of the Turkish navy and their movements.

(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 340.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Goschen.

(Extract.) *Dardanelles, August 5, 1880.*

THE Austrian steamer "Ungaria," reported in my last despatch of the 3rd instant as having troops on board for Volo, was also laden with munitions and stores.

Yesterday the Turkish steam-transport "Djanik" passed through from the Regency of of Tripoli with 250 recruits, and about the same number of discharged Redifs for Constantinople.

P.S.—A steam-yacht resembling the "Izzedin" has just gone downward without communicating. I will not telegraph the circumstance to the Foreign Office.

Inclosure 4 in No. 340.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Dardanelles, August 3, 1880.*

THE specially freighted Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Calypso," which conveyed 1,500 troops from Constantinople to Volo, returned on the 1st instant from that port with 750 discharged men destined for the capital.

On the same day the British steamer "Mazeppa" landed 500 artillerymen from Constantinople to reinforce this garrison, and a French trading steamer passed conveying Osman Pasha, a Divisional Commander, and about 150 Albanians recruited by the League for Volo.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Ungaria," specially chartered, passed down on the 2nd instant, having on board 850 soldiers for Volo.

The artillery Redifs, forming part of the garrison of these forts, have been discharged, but their place is being filled up by recruits from Baleek-Hissar districts, of which about 160 have already come in. I have not informed the Foreign Office of any of these movements of troops, conceiving that your Excellency wishes me merely to report home the movements of ships of war.

Last night two steam-transports towing pontoons passed down without communicating. The pontoons in all probability carried siege-guns.

Since the Porte's reply on the Greek question became known, the hopes of the official class in a solution of that question less favourable to Greece have revived.

The Turkish population, however, continues to show itself quite indifferent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. MALING.

No. 341.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 235.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria relating to the alleged outrages on Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 341.

Mr. Lascelles to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Sophia, August 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note addressed by the Porte to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, on the subject of the ill-treatment of the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have not failed to call the attention of M. Zancoff to the complaints that have been made by the Porte, and to ask his Excellency to inform me whether there is any foundation for them.

His Excellency read to me a copy of a note which had been communicated to the Bulgarian Agency at Constantinople. This note was identical with the one inclosed in your Excellency's despatch, except that the last three paragraphs were omitted. The printed paper inclosed in your Excellency's despatch had not been communicated to the Bulgarian Government. At M. Zancoff's request I left this paper with him in order that he might have a copy of it made.

His Excellency has again assured me that since the Aïdos affair nothing has occurred in the Principality to give any foundation for the complaints of the Porte. He said that the report of the Minister of War on that affair was being copied to be communicated to the Agents of the foreign Powers here, and that I should receive it in a day or two. He believed that the statements in the note which did not refer to the Aïdos affair were greatly exaggerated, and referred to events which had taken place many months ago in that portion of the Principality which had been infested by brigands, but which now had been rendered perfectly tranquil by the measures taken by General Ehrnooth. He trusted that the note which he had addressed to me on the 19th ultimo, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to Lord Granville No. 118 of the 24th ultimo, was a sufficient proof of the desire of the Bulgarian Government that the Turks should be treated with humanity and justice.

In order to obtain as much information as possible on this subject, I have asked Nihad Pasha whether he had received any confirmation of the reports upon which the complaints of the Porte were based. He informed me that since the Aïdos affair no com-

plaints had reached him. The various facts mentioned in the note from the Porte had been brought to his knowledge at various times, but he did not believe that any case of the sort had occurred recently. He was on the whole satisfied with the measures which M. Zancoff had adopted with regard to the return of the refugees, and with the assurances he had given with regard to the property of Mussulmans.

As your Excellency has done me the honour to ask for my views on the question, I would venture to suggest that it might be advisable, before taking any further steps in the matter, to see whether the Bulgarian Government will carry out the good intentions with which M. Zancoff says they are animated by protecting the persons and property of the Mussulman population by insisting that they shall be fairly treated by their Bulgarian fellow-subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 342.

Consul Sanderson to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 1. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Galatz, August* 6, 1880.

REPORTS have for some time been current that arms and ammunition were being sent in large quantities from Russia into Bulgaria, and especially from Reni and Ismail to Rustchuk, but as I could obtain no reliable information on the subject, and no extraordinary activity has been remarked at Galatz in the trade on the Danube between these points, I have not troubled your Lordship on the subject, the more so as these places lie outside my district.

I have to-day, however, received information from a trustworthy source confirming these rumours as far as Reni is concerned, which I venture to submit to your Lordship. My informant states that the hospital sheds built by the Russians in 1878, and noted in the plan forwarded with my despatch No. 58 of the 13th July, 1878, are now turned into magazines for ammunition, and are guarded by sentries in Bulgarian uniform; that ammunition is constantly arriving by rail, and that large quantities are being shipped about three times a-week on board Bulgarian vessels and barges, which have to be hired for this purposes. The whole of the operations at Reni are being conducted at night. There appear to be hardly any Russian troops at Reni or in the vicinity, but orders have lately been received by the Municipality from the Governor at Kischeneff, instructing them to be prepared to find quarters for horses, and speaking of the likelihood of 16,000 troops being quartered shortly between Bolgrad, Reni, and Ismail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 343.

Consul Sanderson to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Galatz, August* 9, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1, Confidential, Political, dated 6th instant, I have the honour to report that, on the evening of the 5th instant, six trucks of ammunition, &c., arrived by rail at Reni, and were stored in the sheds formerly used for hospital purposes, and that at 7 A.M. on the 8th instant two barges passed Galatz proceeding from Reni up river, it is said to Rustchuk, having a large quantity of green ammunition waggons on deck, and being otherwise fully laden. I am not aware of any officers or troops being sent by this route.

I received information that barges had been hired for the transport from Ismail to Rustchuk of a certain number of Bulgarians with horses, cattle, &c., but further inquiries showed that this was not a matter in which the Russian Government was concerned, nor of any political significance apparently, and there is nothing at present to lead me to suppose that troops, arms, or ammunition are being forwarded from Ismail into Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 344.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 6, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the ninth *compte-rendu* for the meeting held at Therapia on the 20th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 9, *tenue le* $\frac{6}{18}$ *Juillet*, 1880 (13 *Chaban*, 1297), *à la Maison d'Abro Effendi, à Thérapia.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.
Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.
Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.
Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.
Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade d'Italie à Constantinople.
Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'État Actuel, Consul-Général.
Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le compte-rendu de la précédente séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Abro Effendi informe la Commission que son collègue Assim Pacha et lui ont étudié minutieusement les amendements proposés conjointement par les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de la Grande Bretagne.

Quoique ne différant pas d'opinion sur le fond de la question, les Commissaires Ottomans ont cru pourtant nécessaire d'introduire quelques petits changements à ces amendements, et ils proposent, en conséquence, le contre amendement ci-après:—

Nouveaux Articles à placer après l'Article 81.

(*a.*) Ne seront pas portés sur le budget du vilayet les frais de l'armée, de l'artillerie, de la marine, de la Liste Civile, de la représentation étrangère et de la Dette Publique, flottante et consolidée, et tous autres frais se rattachant naturellement aux frais généraux du Gouvernement Central.

Sont également exclus du budget du vilayet: les revenus des Douanes, des impôts et monopoles des tabacs, sels, spiritueux, timbres, soies et poissons, et des postes et télégraphes.

(*b.*) Tous les autres revenus du vilayet seront portés sur le budget du vilayet.

(*c.*) Après prélèvement sur ces revenus des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration du vilayet, les 10 pour cent du restant seront abandonnés au vilayet pour les dépenses spéciales et notamment pour les travaux publics et l'instruction publique, qui seront fixées par le Conseil Général dans un cahier spécial. Le reste sera versé au Trésor Impérial.

Après une période de trois années, le dixième abandonné au vilayet sera augmenté

jusqu'à 15 pour cent dans une proportion graduelle, calculée sur l'augmentation des revenus généraux faisant partie du budget du vilayet.

(*d.*) Tous les revenus du vilayet doivent être versés dans la Caisse du vilayet, tenue à la Direction des Finances du chef-lieu du vilayet.

(*e.*) La Direction des Finances tiendra un compte spécial, intitulé Compte A, pour les frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

(*f.*) Les Valis, dans la limite des sommes accordées dans le budget pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, fourniront des assignations sur la Caisse du vilayet, au débit du compte spécial ci-dessus nommé, et ces assignations seront une première charge pour la caisse du vilayet, sur laquelle charge les prélèvements mentionnés à l'Article (*c*) seront opérés au fur et à mesure des besoins, mais toujours dans la limite du crédit annuel stipulé.

(*g.*) En outre de ce compte pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, la Caisse du vilayet ouvrira sur ces livres deux comptes distincts B et C, savoir :

B. Un compte dit "du vilayet" au crédit duquel seront portés les 10 pour cent du solde restant après paiement des frais de l'Administration, lesquels 10 pour cent sont réservés au vilayet. Le Vali fournira des assignations sur la Caisse du vilayet, au débit de ce compte, qui sera une seconde chargé pour la Caisse du vilayet, mais toujours dans la limite des 10 pour cent, ainsi qu'il est dit au paragraphe (*c*).

C. Un compte du Trésor Impérial Ottoman au crédit duquel seront portés les 90 pour cent du solde précité, lesquels 90 pour cent doivent être versés au Trésor Impérial.

(*h.*) Toute somme portée sur ce compte sera à la disposition exclusive du Gouvernement Impérial, pour subvenir aux frais généraux de l'Empire, et sera versée au Trésor Impérial à Constantinople, d'après les instructions du Ministre des Finances.

(*i.*) Cependant, les revenus des Vacoufs, n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets, seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

(*k.*) Chaque assignation sur le compte A sera signée au chef-lieu du vilayet par le Vali et le Defterdar, au chef-lieu du sandjak par le Mutessarif et le Mouhassébédji, au chef-lieu du Caza par le Caïmacam et le Mal-Mudiri. Quant aux assignations sur le compte B, elles seront signées par le Vali et le Defterdar, au chef-lieu du vilayet seul.

(*l.*) L'Inspecteur des Finances vérifiera les comptes du vilayet, et les ayant examinés, présentera un Rapport au Vali, en même temps qu'il le transmettra au Ministère des Finances.

(*m.*) Le Vali soumettra le Rapport de l'Inspecteur des Finances au Conseil Général le premier jour de sa séance.

(*n.*) Le Conseil Général choisira entre ses membres élus un Comité qui examinera si les sommes inscrites au budget ont été employées pour les objets auxquels elles ont été accordées.

(*o.*) Les frais de la gendarmerie et de la police sont inclus dans les frais de l'Administration Locale indiqués à la lettre (*c*).

(*p.*) Le Conseil Général aura le droit d'augmenter les sommes inscrites au budget par le Vali et d'ouvrir de nouveaux Chapitres de dépenses pour les frais de l'Administration Locale. Ces nouvelles dépenses ne pourront être, toutefois, exécutées qu'avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Les changements proposés aux paragraphes (*c*), (*k*), et (*l*) seuls, par les Commissaires Ottomans, étant rapportés à l'amendement des Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Grande Bretagne, cet amendement est accepté par six Commissaires dans la forme suivante :

"(*a.*) Ne seront pas portés sur le budget du vilayet les frais de l'armée, de l'artillerie, de la marine, de la Liste Civile, de la représentation étrangère de la Dette Publique, flottante et consolidée, et tous autres frais se rattachant naturellement aux frais généraux du Gouvernement Central.

"Sont également exclus du budget du vilayet : les revenus des Douanes, des impôts et monopoles des tabacs, sels, spiritueux, timbres, soies et poissons, et des postes et télégraphes.

"(*b.*) Tous les autres revenus du vilayet seront portés sur le budget du vilayet.

"(*c.*) Après prélèvement sur ces revenus des frais de toutes les branches de l'Administration du vilayet, les 15 pour cent du restant seront abandonnés au vilayet pour les dépenses spéciales, et notamment pour les travaux publics et l'instruction publique, qui seront fixées par le Conseil Général dans un cahier spécial. Le reste sera versé au Trésor Impérial.

"(*d.*) Tous les revenus du vilayet doivent être versés dans la Caisse du vilayet, tenue à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au chef-lieu du vilayet.

"(*e.*) La Banque tiendra un compte spécial, intitulé Compte A, pour les frais de l'Administration du vilayet.

"(*f.*) Les Valis, dans la limite des sommes accordées dans le budget pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, fourniront des assignations sur la Banque, au débit du compte spécial ci-dessus nommé, et ces assignations seront une première charge pour la Caisse du Vilayet, sur laquelle les prélèvements mentionnés à l'Article (*c*) seront opérés par la Banque au fur et à mesure des besoins, mais toujours dans la limite du crédit annuel stipulé.

"(*g.*) En outre de ce compte pour les frais de l'Administration Locale, la Banque ouvrira sur ces livres deux comptes distincts, B et C, savoir :—

"B. Un compte, dit 'du Vilayet,' au crédit duquel seront portés les 15 pour cent du solde restant après paiement des frais de l'Administration, lesquels 15 pour cent sont réservés aux dépenses spéciales du vilayet. Le Vali fournira des assignations sur la Banque, au débit de ce compte, qui sera une seconde charge pour la Caisse du vilayet, mais toujours dans la limite des 15 pour cent ci-dessus nommés.

"C. Un compte du Trésor Impérial Ottoman au crédit duquel seront portés les 85 pour cent du solde précité, lesquels 85 pour cent doivent être versés au Trésor Impérial.

"(*h.*) Toute somme portée sur ce compte sera à la disposition exclusive du Gouvernement Impérial, pour subvenir aux frais généraux de l'Empire, et sera versée au Trésor Impérial à Constantinople d'après les instructions du Ministre des Finances.

"(*i.*) Cependant, les revenus des Vacoufs n'étant pas compris dans les revenus généraux des vilayets seront administrés conformément aux dispositions indiquées dans le Titre qui traite des attributions des Conseils des diverses communautés.

"(*k.*) Chaque assignation sur le Compte A sera signée au chef-lieu du vilayet par le Vali et le Defterdar, au chef-lieu du sandjak par le Mutessarif et le Mouhassébédji, au chef-lieu du caza par le Caïmacam et les Mal-Mudiri. Quant aux assignations sur le Compte B, elles seront signées par le Vali et le Defterdar au chef-lieu du vilayet seul.

"(*l.*) L'Inspecteur des Finances vérifiera les comptes du vilayet, et les ayant examinés, présentera un Rapport au Vali, en même temps qu'il le transmettra au Ministère des Finances.

"(*m.*) Le Vali soumettra le Rapport de l'Inspecteur des Finances au Conseil Général le premier jour de sa séance.

"(*n.*) Le Conseil Général choisira entre ses membres élus un Comité qui examinera si les sommes inscrites au budget ont été employées pour les objets auxquels elles ont été accordées.

"(*o.*) Les frais de la gendarmerie et de la police sont inclus dans les frais de l'Administration Locale indiqués à la lettre (*c*).

"(*p.*) Le Conseil Général aura le droit d'augmenter les sommes inscrites au Budget par le Vali et d'ouvrir de nouveaux Chapitres de dépenses pour les frais de l'Administration Locale. Ces nouvelles dépenses ne pourront être, toutefois, exécutées qu'avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte."

Les Délégués Ottomans, ne voyant pas la nécessité d'intervenir dans les rapports du Gouvernement Impérial avec la Banque Impériale Ottomane et de faire de la concession de cet établissement l'objet d'un Article de loi, persistent dans leurs propositions, et se réservent sur l'ensemble des amendements ci-dessus.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie espère que ses collègues de Turquie reviendront sur leurs réserves et prendront de la Sublime Porte de nouvelles instructions à cet égard. Il trouve qu'on ne peut acquérir la certitude du bon emploi des sommes encaissées qu'en faisant tenir les Caisses des vilayets à la Banque Impériale Ottomane. "Au reste," ajoute le Baron de Kosjek, "nous ne faisons que confirmer un contrat qui a été passé entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Banque Impériale Ottomane, en vertu duquel celle-ci s'engage à encaisser les revenus de l'Etat."

M. Hitrovo appuie ces paroles.

L'Article 93, amendé comme suit par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Art. 83. Le Vali présentera au Conseil Général, au commencement de chaque session annuelle, le Projet du Budget de l'année suivante. En même temps que ce Projet de Budget, le compte de l'année précédente sera présenté au Conseil Général par le Vali.

"Le budget est soumis à une discussion préalable au sein du Conseil Général. Le Conseil Général arrêtera l'emploi que le Vali est autorisé à faire des sommes accordées.

"Tout emploi de fonds par l'Administration du vilayet, avant que l'affectation ait été ainsi arrêtée, constitue un abus attentatoire aux droits du Conseil Général.

"Le Vali assistera aux délibérations du Conseil quand il le voudra ; et lorsqu'il ne s'y

trouve pas en personne il pourra déléguer aux délibérations le fonctionnaire du vilayet qu'il aura choisi.

"Le Conseil, en examinant le Projet de Budget et y trouvant des parties sur lesquelles il y aurait à faire des réductions, exprimera les motifs sur lesquels est basée sa décision à ce sujet, et indiquera en même temps l'Article sur lequel portera la réduction et le mode de réduction à adopter."

Sur la proposition de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, l'Article 84 est supprimé à la majorité de 6 voix.

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien de cet Article.

L'Article 85 est adopté à l'unanimité.

L'Article 86, avec l'addition de "cette somme additionnelle sera portée au Compte B," est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit :

"Art. 86. Les Conseils Généraux de vilayet sont autorisés à décider une augmentation d'impôts. Cette somme additionnelle introduite dans le Tableau budgétaire du vilayet pourra varier de 1 aux 5 centièmes au plus de l'impôt annuel de chaque vilayet ; elle sera employée aux travaux utiles et à l'instruction ; et cela, en outre des sommes affectées à chaque vilayet et dont le mode d'emploi est laissé au jugement et au choix de ce vilayet. Cette somme additionnelle sera portée au Compte B.

Le premier alinéa de l'Article 87 jusqu'aux mots "des Conseils Communaux," est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Art. 87. Quant au mode d'emploi des sommes qui, d'après l'Article ci-dessus, seront affectées à chaque vilayet, ainsi que de l'impôt additionnel qui sera perçu dans la proportion de 1 à 5 pour cent de l'impôt général annuel, le produit de ces sources de revenus étant la propriété du vilayet auquel ils se rapportent, il sera laissé à son entière disposition. Les constructions auxquelles ces sommes seront affectées rentrent dans les attributions des Cercles Municipaux et des Conseils Communaux."

L'Article 88 est adopté à l'unanimité.

L'Article 89 est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix, dans la forme ci-dessous, avec l'addition des mots "avec l'assentiment du Sénat et de la Chambre des Députés :"

"Art. 89. Lorsque le Gouvernement Impérial augmente les charges du vilayet, ou qu'il impose une charge avec l'assentiment du Sénat et de la Chambre des Députés, le Conseil Général délibère sur la répartition de ces charges additionnelles entre les livas."

Les Commissaires Ottomans maintiennent la rédaction primitive de cet Article, l'addition proposée leur paraissant superflue du moment que toutes les lois promulguées sont destinées à être discutées et votées par le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés.

A l'Article 24 déjà accepté (voir compte-rendu, séance No. 4) à la majorité de 6 voix, il est proposé d'ajouter au second paragraphe les lignes suivantes :

"Les lois d'impôts, c'est-à-dire les lois sur l'assiette et la répartition des taxes et impôts, sans toutefois en diminuer le montant."

L'Article 24 ainsi complété est accepté par six Commissaires.

Les Commissaires Ottomans n'étant pas d'accord sur l'ensemble de l'Article 24, tel qu'il a été accepté par leurs collègues, font leurs réserves sur cet amendement aussi.

Le premier alinéa de l'Article 37, étant supprimé, la seconde partie de cet Article est adoptée à l'unanimité, dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 37. Les contestations, désaccords et réclamations qui se produiraient au sujet de l'assiette des impôts et charges, dans les localités où l'inscription foncière n'est pas encore organisée, seront examinés, d'abord dans le Conseil d'Administration du sandjak où ils ont lieu, puis dans celui du vilayet, et, enfin, dans l'Assemblée Générale de ce vilayet. Si le résultat de cet examen aboutit à la modification des charges et impôts du vilayet, sans en affecter le montant général, le Vali opère directement cette modification et en communique le mode d'exécution au Ministère des Finances. Mais, s'il est jugé convenable d'effectuer la remise d'une somme plus ou moins grande des revenus, cette remise ne peut être opérée qu'à la suite d'une autorisation de la Sublime Porte."

A la place des deux premiers alinéas de l'Article 38, la rédaction suivante de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, qui est une addition au premier amendement qu'il a présenté à ce sujet, est acceptée par six Commissaires, de façon que cet Article prend la forme suivante :—

"Art. 38. Au commencement de la session, le Vali présentera le budget du vilayet au Conseil Général, et le fera examiner et confirmer par elle. A la clôture de la session de ce Conseil le Président du Conseil présentera le budget au Vali, qui, à son tour, présentera au Ministre des Finances pour son approbation. Le budget est censé approuvé, si, dans un délai de trois mois, le Ministre des Finances n'a pas fait connaître sa décision. Le Vali est autorisé, comme représentant du pouvoir Impérial, d'effectuer immédiatement les dépenses portées dans le budget, approuvé par le Gouvernement.

"Le Vali et le Defterdar sont, en commun, responsables dans les affaires des finances et de comptabilité."

Les Commissaires Ottomans maintiennent la rédaction telle quelle du texte primitif.

Les Commissaires Ottomans n'ayant pas encore présenté l'Article 410, la question sur les dîmes est réservée pour le moment. Il reste entendu que cet Article fera partie du Titre des finances.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion des Articles 101 à 228.

Le Président donne lecture des Articles.

Sur la proposition de M. Aubaret l'Article 112 est renvoyé au Chapitre traitant de la police.

L'Article 113 est adopté à l'unanimité.

L'Article 114, dont on supprime la dernière phrase, est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 114. Le Mutessarif et le Mouhassébédji sont, en commun, responsables sous le rapport des affaires financières et de comptabilité.

"Les affaires de comptabilité sont confiées à un bureau de finances sous les ordres du Mouhassébédji, qui agira en conformité des règles qui lui seront indiquées par le Defterdar du vilayet."

Les Articles 115 et 116 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Les quatre Tableaux énumérant les affaires dont les Mutessarifs s'occupent et qui suivent l'Article 116 sont adoptés à l'unanimité avec la modification suivante au paragraphe (*a*) du quatrième Tableau : au lieu de "rivières accessibles" on dit : "rivières navigables et flottables."

Le Commissaire de France propose de supprimer la première partie de l'Article 117 jusqu'aux mots "les sandjaks comprenant, etc. . ." et de les remplacer par l'amendement ci-après :—

"Le Conseil d'Administration du liva sera composé du Mutessarif, de son Mouavin, du Mouhassébédji, du Mufti, des Chefs des communautés officiellement reconnues, et de six membres élus par le Conseil d'Administration des Cazas, sans qu'il soit nécessaire que les élus fassent partie des dits Conseils. En l'absence du Mutessarif, la présidence reviendra de droit à son Mouavin."

Les Commissaires Ottomans proposent d'ajouter à cet amendement la phrase suivante :—

"Le Defterdar déléguera un des fonctionnaires placés sous ses ordres au Conseil d'Administration du sandjak comprenant le chef-lieu du vilayet."

L'Article 117 est adopté à l'unanimité, avec l'amendement de M. Aubaret et la proposition des Commissaires Ottomans, dans la forme ci-dessous :—

"Art. 117. Le Conseil d'Administration du liva sera composé du Mutessarif, Président, de son Mouavin, du Mouhassébédji, du Mufti, des Chefs des communautés officiellement reconnues, et de six membres élus par les Conseils d'Administration des cazas, sans qu'il soit nécessaire que les élus fassent partie des dits Conseils. En l'absence du Mutessarif, la présidence reviendra de droit à son Mouavin.

"Le Defterdar déléguera un des fonctionnaires placés sous ses ordres au Conseil d'Administration du sandjak comprenant le chef-lieu du vilayet.

"Les sandjaks comprenant le chef-lieu du vilayet auront aussi un Conseil composé de la même manière. Le Conseil d'Administration étant préposé à l'examen et à la discussion du mode d'administration des affaires civiles, financières, et de celles concernant la police, la perception, les travaux publics, le tapou, l'agriculture et les Vakoufs, n'aura aucune ingérence dans les affaires judiciaires, à l'exception du jugement des fonctionnaires conformément au Titre y relatif."

L'Article 118 est supprimé à l'unanimité.

L'Article 119 est, après une très-petite modification, adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante :—

"Art. 119. Le Conseil d'Administration du sandjak, conformément à ses règlements, est chargé de la rédaction et conclusion des contrats, des achats et des ventes de toutes sortes de l'autorité, après les avoir mis en adjudication ; de l'administration ou de la mise en adjudication, suivant les ordres du Gouvernement Impérial, des produits des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes ; de la mise en adjudication des forêts de l'Etat, de la construction et réparation des édifices publics ; du contrôle des affectations et des dépenses de la gendarmerie ; des revenus et des dépenses générales du liva ; de l'examen de la comptabilité des Caisses d'utilité publique et du contrôle de leur état ; de l'inspection et de la conservation de tous les biens meubles et immeubles du Gouvernement ; de l'examen des décisions prises par les Conseils des arrondissements municipaux et par les Conseils des

communes comprises dans le caza du chef-lieu du liva; de la construction des routes nécessaires qui doivent relier les cazas; de l'agriculture, du commerce, et d'autres questions d'utilité publique; du mode de répartition des impôts entre les cazas, ainsi que de la répartition de la quote-part d'impôt incombant au caza central entre les nahiés de ce caza; de la fondation des écoles; de la désignation et du changement des emplacements des foires, des marchés, et des cimetières; de l'examen et de la discussion de la vente, conformément à la loi y relative, des terres qui, n'ayant pas de propriétaires, reviennent à l'Etat; de l'examen et de la discussion des questions déjà examinées par les Conseils des cazas; de l'examen et de la discussion de toutes les affaires administratives que le Mutessarif lui soumettra; enfin de la présentation des procès-verbaux de ses décisions sur ces matières.

La comptabilité des Cercles municipaux sera examinée et vérifiée dans les Conseils municipaux et confirmée par le Mutessarif. Les Caisses municipales sont placées sous le contrôle des Inspecteurs des Finances."

L'Article 120 est adopté à l'unanimité comme ci-après:

"Art. 120. Le Conseil d'Administration s'occupe, conformément au Titre y relatif, de l'accusation et de l'interrogation des fonctionnaires ayant manqué à l'exercice de leurs devoirs, ainsi que du règlement des conflits d'attribution pouvant résulter entre les Administrations, les Conseils, et les fonctionnaires du liva."

Après quelques discussions les Articles 121, 123, 124, 126, 127, 128, et 129 sont adoptés, à l'unanimité.

L'Article 122 est renvoyé à la discussion du Titre 18.

L'Article 125 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:

"Art. 125. Le Bureau du Conseil d'Administration des livas est sous la direction du Directeur de la Correspondance."

L'Article 130, amendé comme suit, est adopté à l'unanimité:

"Art. 130. Les membres des Conseils ne sont responsables que des abus commis par eux-mêmes dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Ils ont isolément ou en commun, le droit de signaler au Gouverneur-Général d'abord, au Ministère de l'Intérieur ensuite, les abus et les agissements de l'autorité contraires aux lois et règlements."

L'Article 131 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:

"Art. 131. Les Conseillers d'Administration, les membres des Tribunaux, et tous les fonctionnaires rétribués par l'Etat ne peuvent s'adjuger par affermage ou à forfait les revenus de l'Etat.

"Il leur est absolument défendu de se porter garants dans les affaires qui concernent l'Etat.

Les Articles 132, 134, et 135 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'Article 133, dans lequel les mots "au règlement spécial" sont remplacés par ceux de "à la loi" est adopté l'unanimité comme suit:

"Art. 133. Les questions telles que la prohibition et la fermeture des fabriques, ateliers, et magasins dont l'institution est nuisible à la salubrité publique, ou bien contraire à la loi et aux usages locaux, sont en premier lieu étudiées dans le Conseil d'Administration."

Sur la proposition des Commissaires Ottomans le nouvel Article suivant est adopté à l'unanimité pour être placé à la fin du Titre 7:

"Art. . Les Mutessarifs sont responsables de leurs actes, ainsi que de la non-exécution des attributions à eux déférées par la présente loi. De même que les Valis feront une tournée dans le vilayet, une ou deux fois par an, de même les Mutessarifs feront aussi une tournée, deux fois au moins par an, pour inspecter les cantons de leur circonscription, pour s'enquérir et se rendre compte de la situation de ces cantons, de leurs populations et de la conduite des fonctionnaires, afin d'adopter telles améliorations qui seront nécessaires et de référer à la décision des Valis celles qui dépassent leurs propres attributions."

L'Article 136 est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix, dans la forme ci-après:

"Art. 136. Dans chaque caza, l'administration des affaires civiles et financières et celle de la police sont confiées à un Caïmacam, nommé par Iradé Impérial. Le Caïmacam est directement subordonné au Mutessarif du liva. Il est chargé de l'exécution de tous les ordres du Gouvernement Impérial et des communications et des instructions écrites émanant de l'Administration du vilayet et du liva; il administre toutes les affaires intérieures du caza qui sont de sa compétence.

"Le Caïmacam aura un Mouavin lequel sera non-Musulman, si le Caïmacam est Musulman, et *vice-versa*."

Les Commissaires Ottomans s'abstiennent.

L'Article 137, amendé comme ci-dessous, est adopté à l'unanimité:

"Art. 137. Le Caïmacam exécutera les ordres et instructions se rapportant à l'administration du caza, ainsi que les mesures relatives aux intérêts généraux qui seront jugées convenables par le Vali et par le Mutessarif, pour celles qui sont de sa compétence. La police du caza relève du Caïmacam; celui-ci pourra prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires à la sécurité et de la tranquillité publiques; en cas d'urgence il réunit tous les gendarmes de son caza, et dans le cas où il aurait besoin d'une plus grande force il se réfère au Mutessarif et agit sur les ordres de celui-ci."

L'Article 138, dont on supprime la dernière phrase, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit:

"Art. 138. Les affaires financières du caza, c'est-à-dire la perception des revenus de l'Etat et leur expédition au chef-lieu du liva, ainsi que le paiement des dépenses nécessaires rentrent dans les attributions du Caïmacam. Dans ces questions le Mal-Mudiri est, en commun avec lui, fonctionnaire responsable."

L'Article 139 est adopté, après quelques petites modifications, dans la forme ci-après:

"Art. 139. En outre du Mal-Mudiri, il y aura dans chaque caza: un Caissier, un Percepteur, un Secrétaire de la Correspondance du Caza, et un Secrétaire pour le Cadastre, la statistique et le recensement de la population."

La discussion des Articles 140, 142, 143, et 144 est, d'un commun accord, renvoyée au titre de la police.

L'Article 141 est adopté à l'unanimité.

Le Tableau placé après l'Article 144 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-dessous:

Les Caïmacams statuent aussi sur les Affaires indiquées ci-dessus.

"(*a.*) Délivrance des passeports;
"(*b.*) Délivrance des permis de chasse et de port d'armes;
"(*c.*) Légalisation des signatures données par les Mudirs et les Inspecteurs de Police pour les pièces qui doivent être produites hors du caza;
"(*d.*) Autorisation de mise en circulation des voitures publiques et renvoi de cette autorisation au Conseil Municipal;
"(*e.*) Autorisation du changement de résidence dans le caza des condamnés libérés soumis à la surveillance de la police;
"(*f.*) Autorisation des débits de boissons;
"(*g.*) Approbation des polices d'assurance des immeubles des nahiés;
"(*h.*) Homologation des Tarifs des droits de places dans les halles, foires et marchés;
"(*i.*) Approbation des Tarifs des droits de pesage et de mesurage;
"(*j.*) Autorisation des battues pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles dans les bois relevant des communes ou des établissements religieux et de bienfaisance;
"(*k.*) Institution des Caisses de bienfaisance et de charité et examen des budgets et comptes d'administration de ces Caisses;
"(*l.*) Administration des fonds appartenant à ces Caisses;
"(*m.*) Réglement du service intérieur des bureaux de bienfaisance et de charité;
"(*n.*) Acceptation des dons et des legs en faveur des Caisses de bienfaisance du caza et des nahiés, pourvu que leur valeur n'excède pas £T. 100 et qu'ils ne soulèvent pas de réclamations de la part des familles des donateurs;
"Si le changement de résidence indiqué dans le paragraphe (*e*) ci-dessus doit s'opérer hors du caza, c'est le Directeur de la Justice qui peut en accorder l'autorisation."

L'amendement ci-après, proposé par M. Aubaret en remplacement de l'Article 145, est accepté par six Commissaires:

"Art. 145. Le Conseil d'Administration du Caza sera composé du Caïmacam, Président, de son Mouavin, du Mal-Mudiri, et de quatre membres élus par les Conseils des Nahiés, sans qu'il soit nécessaire que les élus fassent partie des dits Conseils."

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent parce qu'ils tiennent à voir figurer parmi les membres de droit le Mufti et les Chefs spirituels des autres communautés reconnues.

L'Article 146 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-dessous:

"Art. 146. Le Conseil d'Administration du Caza a pour attributions, qu'il exerce conformément à l'ordre écrit qui lui sera transmis du liva, l'administration et la mise en adjudication des produits des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes, la mise en adjudication des forêts de l'Etat, la construction et la réparation des édifices publics, le contrôle des revenus et des dépenses du caza, l'examen des comptes des Caisses d'utilité publique, l'administration et conservation de tous les biens meubles et immeubles de l'Etat, la mise en adjudication des terres revenant à l'Etat, et la communication du résultat au liva, la répartition entre les Cercles des nahiés des charges imposées par décision du liva à la suite d'une loi spéciale; le contrôle des décisions du Conseil Municipal du caza; l'adoption des

mesures relatives aux facilités du commerce, à la prospérité de l'agriculture, à l'instruction, aux travaux d'utilité publique, aux fondations utiles et à la salubrité publique; la mise à exécution des actes concernant la mise en accusation des fonctionnaires; l'examen de celles des adjudications, des ventes, des conventions, et des dépenses que le Caïmacam est autorisé à faire en vertu de règlements ou d'ordres officiels, et la préparation, ainsi que la présentation au Conseil d'Administration du liva, des renseignements préliminaires au sujet de celles auxquelles le Caïmacam n'est pas directement autorisé. Il est chargé d'examiner et de discuter les affaires décidées par délibération dans les Conseils des nahiés ainsi que toutes celles qui lui sont soumises par le Caïmakam du caza et se rapportant à l'Administration et de présenter les rapports de ses décisions sur ces matières."

Les Articles 147, 148, avec l'addition de la Porte, 149, 150, 151, et 152 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'Article 153, amendé comme ci-dessous, est accepté par six Commissaires:

"Art. 153. Il y aura dans chaque ville et bourg un Cercle municipal composé de membres élus, lesquels choisiront leur Président dont la nomination sera confirmée par le Vali."

Les Commissaires Ottomans maintiennent l'Article primitif du Projet.

L'Article 154 est supprimé à l'unanimité.

L'Article 155 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:—

"Art. 155. Si les Cercles municipaux outrepassent leurs attributions, ils peuvent être dissous par le Vali. Dans ce cas, les affaires municipales sont gérées par une Commission municipale de cinq à dix membres selon l'importance du Cercle; le choix de ces membres sera fait par le Mutessarif d'après la religion et la nationalité de la population du Cercle et confirmé par le Vali. L'ordre relatif à la dissolution du Conseil Municipal indiquera aussi l'époque de l'élection des nouveaux membres, et cette élection ne pourra pas être retardée de plus de trois mois. Le Vali informera la Sublime Porte."

Les Articles 156 et 157 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'Article 158 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:—

"Art. 158. Quand le Conseil Municipal aura décidé d'établir un impôt contraire aux lois, le Mutessarif annulera cette décision et défendra la perception de l'impôt. Si le Conseil Municipal ne juge pas conforme aux lois l'action du Mutessarif, il a recours au Vali qui, après avoir demandé l'avis du Conseil Administratif du vilayet, tranche le différend."

L'Article 159 est supprimé à la majorité de 6 voix.

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent contre cette suppression.

L'Article 160 est adopté à l'unanimité.

L'Article 161, amendé, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit:—

"Art. 161. Si le Président du Conseil Municipal se met en état d'opposition vis-à-vis du pouvoir exécutif, le Mutessarif ou le Caïmacam peuvent, après un avertissement, provoquer sa destitution, qui sera prononcée par le Vali."

Le nouvel Article ci-dessous, à placer à la fin du Titre 10, présenté par les Commissaires Ottomans, est adopté à l'unanimité:—

"Art. . La comptabilité des Cercles municipaux sera examinée et vérifiée dans les Cercles municipaux et confirmée par le Mutessarif. Les Caisses municipales sont placées sous le contrôle des Inspecteurs des Finances."

La phrase suivante de l'Article 162 est renvoyée au titre de la police.

"Si, par l'importance du lieu, il est jugé convenable par le Gouvernement d'y nommer un officier de police, le Mudir, sans s'immiscer dans la police, administrera les affaires municipales."

L'Article 162, dont on supprime la phrase ci-dessus, est accepté à la majorité de 6 voix dans la forme suivante:—

"Art. 162. Il y aura dans chaque nahié un Mudir (Maire) et un Mouavin (Adjoint), qui s'occupent de l'administration du nahié. Le Mudir devra être de la religion de la majorité. Les Mudirs des nahiés et leurs Mouavins doivent faire parvenir au Caïmacam et, s'il y a nécessité, au Mutessarif, les réclamations et vœux exprimés par la population du nahié. Les Mudirs des nahiés et leurs Mouavins sont, dans l'ordre administratif, subordonnés au Caïmacam, mais ils peuvent avoir recours au Mutessarif."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien l'Article primitif du Projet.

Sur la proposition du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, la discussion de l'Article 163 est réservée à la prochaine séance.

Les Articles 164 et 165 sont adoptés à l'unanimité avec l'addition au dernier paragraphe de l'Article 165 de "les ecclésiastiques ne pourront être nommés ni Mudirs ni Mouavins."

L'Article 166 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante:—

"Art. 166. Le Mutessarif destitue les Mudirs et les Mouavins s'ils viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent aussi être destitués en cas de manquement grave à leurs devoirs ou sur une plainte fondée à leur égard. Leur destitution, dans ces deux cas, doit être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Caïmacam. Un membre du Conseil Communal remplacera le Mudir destitué. Les Mudirs et les Mouavins destitués pour manquement grave à leurs devoirs ne peuvent être nommés de nouveau qu'au bout de deux ans, et ceux destitués pour crimes ou délits ne seront plus éligibles."

Les Article 167 et 169 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Le second alinéa de l'Article 168 est renvoyé à la discussion du Titre de la police et le premier alinéa seul, formant l'Article, est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit:—

"Art. 168. Les Percepteurs, dans la perception des revenus de l'Etat, sont sous le contrôle et les ordres des Mudirs; ils sont obligés de leur montrer leurs registres."

L'Article 170 est accepté par six Commissaires dans la forme ci-après:—

"Art 170. Chaque commune, selon son importance, aura un Conseil de Nahié, composé de quatre à douze membres. Conformément à la loi, ces membres seront élus pour deux ans suivant le mode indiqué dans le Titre des élections."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien de l'Article primitif du Projet.

L'Article 171 est adopté à l'unanimité.

L'Article 172, dont on supprime un passage, est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme ci-après:—

"Art. 172. Ces Conseils ont pour attributions de répartir, selon la condition des villages que contient l'arrondissement et la proportion du nombre des habitants, les impôts légalement établis; d'examiner les réclamations qui pourraient survenir entre les villages, par suite de ces répartitions, et de les modifier et arranger en conséquence; de délibérer sur les moyens de percevoir les redevances fiscales, les dimes et contributions de manière à ce qu'il n'en reste pas d'arriérées; de constater avec toute la promptitude possible, et de porter immédiatement à la connaissance de l'autorité et du plus proche Directeur de Police les noms et prénoms des brigands et des voleurs de grand chemin qui apparaîtraient dans le nahié, ainsi que des fauteurs de troubles qui y surviendraient, au préjudice de la tranquillité et de la sécurité de la localité; de faire connaître au Président, afin qu'il en informe immédiatement l'autorité, les Percepteurs, agents de police, huissiers, employés des dîmes et des Contributions Indirectes qui oseraient agir, en quoi que ce soit, contrairement à la loi et aux règlements, et qui commettraient des exactions ou vexations, ainsi que de faire connaître les maladies contagieuses et les épizooties qui apparaîtraient dans le nahié.

"Dans le cas où un Conseil de Nahié dépasserait les limites de ses attributions, et que sa dissolution serait jugée nécessaire par l'autorité, le Caïmacam du Caza en demande l'autorisation au Vali par l'entremise du Mutessarif; et sur les ordres qu'il en reçoit, il dissout le Conseil et en fait élire un autre, conformément à la loi."

Le premier alinéa de l'Article 173 étant supprimé, cet Article est adopté à l'unanimité comme suit:—

"Art. 173. Les contestations survenues entre les Conseils des Anciens des villages d'un nahié seront résolues à l'amiable par un Conseil Mixte, composé de six à douze anciens, choisis *ad hoc* par les villages contestants. Les membres de ce Conseil de Paix seront pris en nombre égal dans chaque village, et le plus âgé des Anciens aura la présidence.

"Dans le cas où cet essai de résolution à l'amiable n'aboutirait pas, le jugement de la contestation sera référé au Tribunal Civil.

"Cette règle sera mise aussi en pratique dans les contestations survenues entre deux ou plusieurs nahiés, avec la différence que le Conseil de Paix sera en pareil cas présidé par le Caïmacam en personne ou par un Délégué de sa part."

L'Article 174, après quelques petites modifications, est à l'unanimité adopté comme suit:—

"Art. 174. Le Conseil de Nahié encaissera les impôts et droits municipaux dans le Cercle désigné par la loi. Il arrêtera le budget du nahié, et y indiquera le montant des dépenses fixées par ces lois comme obligatoires.

"Il arrêtera, après contrôle, les comptes de l'Administration du nahié; il décidera la création ou l'agrandissement de tous les établissements se rapportant aux intérêts généraux du nahié, soit au moyen de l'argent en caisse, soit avec les sommes provenant de l'augmentation des impôts municipaux.

Il arrêtera les projets et plans des grandes réparations des propriétés appartenant au nahié afin d'en demander l'autorisation aux fonctionnaires supérieurs. Il examinera et discutera toutes les questions relatives au nivellement et à la construction des rues

et des places ainsi qu'à leur pavage et éclairage; à la construction des jardins publics, conduites d'eau, égouts, fossés, digues, ponts appartenant au pays; et en général toutes les affaires Municipales; les procès qui intéressent le nahié, ainsi que les modes d'arrangement et les conventions qu'il serait nécessaire de conclure pour son compte."

Article 175, dont on supprime les dernières phrases à partir des mots: "dans le cas où, etc.," est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante:

"Art. 175. Le budget du nahié est adressé par le Mudir et remis au Conseil du Nahié; après examen et confirmation, il est envoyé au chef-lieu du caza. Si quelques dépenses relatives au nahié sont omises dans son budget, elles y seront introduites après discussion au Conseil d'Administration du caza."

Article 176 est adopté à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante:

"Art. 176. Les dépenses obligatoires d'un nahié sont:

"1. Les frais de l'administration du local destiné au Mudirat;

"2. Les frais de bureau et d'impression pour le service du nahié;

"3. L'abonnement au journal et le coût des feuilles d'annonces dans lesquelles sont publiés les Actes administratifs;

"4. Les frais du recensement de la population;

"5. Les traitements des Receveurs Municipaux et des préposés de l'octroi, s'il y en a, ainsi que les frais de perception de tous les revenus du nahié;

"6. Les traitements des gardes ruraux;

"7. Les dépenses de police locale du nahié selon la loi;

"8. Les appointements des employés chargés des affaires municipales du nahié;

"9. Les frais d'entretien d'un service de pompiers, nécessaire au nahié;

"10. Le contingent assigné au nahié dans la dépense des enfants trouvés et abandonnés;

"11. Les frais d'entretien de l'hôpital du nahié;

"12. Les frais de réparation des édifices appartenant au nahié;

"13. Et généralement toutes les charges ordinaires et extraordinaires imposées au nahié par la loi."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Samedi, 24 Juillet, la suite de la discussion des Articles 101 à 228.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GHITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 345.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 6, 1880.*

THE Commission has been recently occupied with the question of judicial organization. The new law contains a Chapter (No. 14) which professes to deal with justice, but in reality is only a long reference to a new Code of substantive law, procedure, and judicature, which, borrowed wholesale from the legislation of France, has been recently promulgated by the Government. The Commissioners of the Powers, at their seventh sitting, officially informed the Ottoman Commissioners that they had no intention to allow the important subject of the organization of the Tribunals to be withdrawn from their cognizance by this subterfuge, more especially as their rights in the matter were evident, the greater portion of the Cretan Charter of 1867 being occupied with the establishment of a provincial Judicature in the island. They, however, added that, while declining to be in any way bound by the Code above mentioned, they would, as a matter

of courtesy, examine the portions of it relating to the Tribunals, if immediately presented by the Ottoman Commissioners. This, however, the Ottoman Commissioners refused to do, and I may add that no translation from the Turkish of the Code has hitherto been made, nor any other step taken to render its provisions generally known.

The Ottoman Commissioners, in reply to the observations of their colleagues, laid considerable stress on the fact that the Code had been examined by a Committee of the Dragomans of all the Powers, and argued that this constituted a recognition of it. To this I replied that the Dragomans had examined the Procedure and the Code of substantive law, but not the portion relating to judicature; that, further, their directions had been to examine the procedure and substantive law with the view of ascertaining only whether they in any way infringed upon the rights of foreigners under the Capitulations, although it was true that in practice they had been allowed to go considerably beyond this; but that in no case would I admit for a moment that the labours of a Committee of Dragomans, however able, could infringe upon those of an European Commission appointed by a public Treaty. At the same time, I do not wish to conceal from your Lordship that I think it unfortunate that Sir Henry Layard, when assenting to the appointment of the British Dragomans on the above Committee, did not take some formal steps to avoid the misapprehensions which, under the circumstances, were sure to arise.

The Ottoman Commissioners having declined to present their own plan for the criticism of the Commission, and the accounts of it which reached the Commissioners of the Powers being most unfavourable, it was agreed by the latter that they should themselves prepare a new Chapter on the basis of the Cretan Charter, and present it to the Commission. M. Aubaret and myself accordingly made separate studies of the subject from this point of view. I called in Mr. Sandwith, Her Majesty's Consul in the Island of Crete, and I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable assistance I received from him, and also from M. Stavrides, the British member of the Committee of Dragomans. M. Aubaret and myself next compared our separate drafts, and, finding that they differed in no material respect, we joined them into one Chapter. This Chapter was then subjected to a careful criticism by Parnes Effendi, an English Maltese subject in the service of the Ottoman Porte, and one of the Ottoman members of the Committee of Dragomans mentioned above, and by M. Yanko, the Austro-Hungarian member of that body. It was then further amended by the Commissioners of the Powers, at a private meeting held here on the 31st July, and came up for discussion on Wednesday the 4th August, at the formal sitting of the Commission.

The Ottoman Commissioners were accompanied by Wahan Effendi, Mustechar of the Ministry of Justice, and by Parnes Effendi, as Judicial Assessors. At the commencement of the proceedings, the Russian Commissioner read a long protest against dealing with the subject of judicial organization at present. None of his colleagues had been informed of his intention to do this. Wahan Effendi then made a statement against the new Chapter, which he declared was entirely out of harmony with the previous legislation on the subject, and was objectionable in many important respects. He concluded by asking for a delay, in order to enable the Turkish Commissioners to present their own Judicature Act. Parnes Effendi, who carefully avoided associating himself with the criticism of his colleague, said he thought there were several points of procedure in the draft Chapter which had better be omitted. I said, in reply, that I thought, after the previous conduct of the Turkish Commissioners, the request for delay was most extraordinary; and I asked Parnes Effendi whether, in his observations about procedure, he included the regulations about arrest and prison organization, because, though upon other points I would be most anxious to yield as much as I could, upon these I was determined to take my stand. Parnes Effendi said he did not include these in his remarks, though he thought, to avoid ambiguity, it would be better to put them in the first, instead of the fourteenth Chapter of the Project. To this I said I would consent. Baron de Kosjek said he thought Wahan Effendi, instead of indulging in generalities, had better point out the contradictions and omissions of which he spoke, Article by Article. Wahan Effendi was not able to refuse this very reasonable proposition. The result was that the contradictions and omissions were found to be but few and easily remedied, and the real objections to be in regard to questions of principle, viz.:—

1. The high payments to be made to the judicial staff.
2. The abolition of the double appeal.
3. The establishment of Nahié Courts, with a considerable jurisdiction, analogous to that of our County Courts.

These points, the French Commissioner told Wahan Effendi, had been very fully

considered by us, and we had arrived at our conclusions after careful reflection, and had no intention of altering them.

Wahan Effendi then took his departure, and the Commission resumed. The Articles were again gone through separately, and in several respects amended in the direction proposed by Wahan Effendi and Parnes Effendi. The Russian Commissioner, however, declined to join in the discussion, stating that Wahan Effendi had convinced him of the necessity of delay. One of the Commissioners observed that M. Hitrovo's declaration had been read before, and not after, he had Wahan Effendi's criticisms.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, Parnes Effendi, who remained to the end, told me privately that the work which the Commission had done was good and practical, and that there was no need to be disturbed on the subject by what had fallen from his colleague and from M. Hitrovo.

The impression among the majority of the Commissioners is that legal questions are new to M. Hitrovo.

One of the decisions of the Commission I regret. M. Aubaret and I had both proposed that the Judge of the Nahié Court should have two elective Assessors—one a Mussulman, the other a non-Mussulman. This provision was struck out at the private meeting on the 31st.

I foresee difficulties in the case of either a Mussulman or non-Mussulman Judge sitting alone in a mixed district. I am not, however, without hope of being able to persuade my colleagues to reconsider their decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 346.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880.

THE Ottoman Commissioners having refused to present a Chapter on gendarmerie to the Commission for its consideration, the Commissioners of the Powers resolved to present one themselves. Lieutenant Vincent accordingly, by my directions, prepared a draft Chapter bearing on the subject, and M. Aubaret, with the assistance of Captain de Torcy, prepared another. We then consolidated the two drafts into a single Chapter, which, after being discussed and amended at a private meeting, was to-day adopted by the Commission.

The plan varies but very slightly from that of Lieutenant Vincent's draft, which I may mention was also considered and approved by Captain Swaine, the Military Attaché of Her Majesty's Embassy, Colonel Blunt, of the Adrianople Gendarmerie, Colonel Synge, and Colonel Baker, V.C. In general it resembles the Chapter on the subject in the East Roumelian Statute, but leaves the details as to discipline, admission, advancement, &c., to the Minister of War and the Council General, and also renders the force rather more independent of the lesser local authorities, as suggested by me in my despatch No. 17.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 347.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the *comptes-rendus* for the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Commission, held on the 24th and 28th ultimo at Galata-Serai.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 347.

Compte-rendu.—Séance No. 11, *tenue le* 1$\frac{8}{20}$ *Juillet*, 1880 (21 *Chaban*, 1297), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï, à Constantinople.*

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig, Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Impériale d'Allemagne à Constantinople.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
Le Baron de Kosjek, Conseiller de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique à Constantinople.

Pour la France—
M. Aubaret, Consul-Général.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Lord E. Fitzmaurice, Membre du Parlement.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni, Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade d'Italie à Constantinople.

Pour la Russie—
M. Hitrovo, Conseiller d'Etat Actuel, Consul-Général.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha, Vizir, Membre du Sénat;
Abro Effendi, Fonctionnaire de Premier Rang, Première Classe, Conseiller d'Etat.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure et demie.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Séon, est adopté.

Abro Effendi prie le bureau de vouloir bien faire une rectification au compte-rendu de la huitième séance à la page 2, dans la forme suivante :—

"Son Excellence Assim Pacha annonce à la Commission, en réponse à une question posée à la dernière séance par le Baron de Kosjek, que la Commission dont les journaux avaient annoncé la formation à la Sublime Porte, sous la présidence de son Excellence Abédine Pacha, ne s'occupe nullement du Projet de Loi destiné aux vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe."

Les Commissaires Ottomans déposent sur le bureau le texte Turc et Français, approuvé par la Sublime Porte, de la fin du Projet de Réformes, à partir de l'Article 229 à 449.

L'ordre du jour appelle l'examen du Chapitre des cultes présenté par Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit que le Chapitre qu'il propose à la Commission d'adopter et d'ajouter ensuite au Projet de Loi, est tiré du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, et que ce Chapitre porte dans ce Statut les Articles 335 à 346. "J'ai," ajoute-t-il, "introduit quelques modifications à quelques-uns de ces Articles."

Abro Effendi repousse cette proposition, car il ne voit pas l'utilité d'un Chapitre spécial pour les cultes. "Si un tel Chapitre existe dans le Statut de la Roumélie Orientale," dit le Commissaire de Turquie, "c'est parce que cette province se trouvant dans une situation exceptionnelle, il a fallu y introduire des dispositions de lois assurant aux communautés religieuses Chrétiennes l'exercice des droits et immunités dont ces communautés jouissent dans les autres provinces de l'Empire Ottoman.

"Je ne vois nullement la nécessité," ajoute le Commissaire Ottoman, "d'introduire un Chapitre nouveau dans la loi des vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe où l'exercice des droits et immunités octroyés aux communautés religieuses Chrétiennes n'a pas été en souffrance. Bien au contraire, leurs privilèges ont toujours été scrupuleusement observés."

Abro Effendi conclut, en conséquence, que ce Chapitre est, au point de vue des Commissaires Ottomans, complètement superflu.

De plus, le Commissaire Ottoman relève surtout une allégation incorrecte dan[s]

l'Article 335, qui dit que les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale conservent les droits, immunités, privilèges et exemptions dont elles jouissaient avant la guerre. Abro Effendi ne peut pas se rendre compte des violations qui auraient été commises contre ces immunités et privilèges pendant la guerre.

"Du reste," continue-t-il, "les cultes non-Musulmans sont régis en Turquie par des Bérats et des Firmans accordés, *ab antiquo*, aux communautés religieuses par plus d'un souverain de l'Empire; ils ne peuvent, en conséquence, entrer dans le cadre administratif d'un loi du vilayet."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha rappelle que le règlement de la Crète, dont on veut se rapprocher le plus possible, ne contient pas de Chapitre sur les cultes.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne demande au Président s'il n'a point reçu de pétitions ayant rapport à cette question, lesquelles prouveraient l'importance que les populations y attachent.

Le Baron de Kosjek pense, comme Abro Effendi, que l'introduction des Articles précités du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, dans le Projet de Loi soumis actuellement à la Commission, n'est pas nécessaire. Toutefois, le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie se rallie à la proposition de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, mais avec cette réserve expresse, qu'en la votant, il n'a en vue de constater une fois de plus et formellement, les immunités dont les communautés religieuses en général ont toujours joui dans l'Empire Ottoman, en vertu des Firmans Impériaux.

Le Chevalier Vernoni appuie la proposition de Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice.

"La plus grande partie des Articles proposés," dit le Commissaire d'Italie, "constatent des droits déjà acquis, de tout temps, aux populations de l'Empire. La Commission en les intercalant dans la nouvelle loi ne fait ainsi que les confirmer en leur donnant une nouvelle force. Si elle devait s'abstenir rigoureusement d'introduire, dans la nouvelle loi, des Articles relatifs à des droits déjà reconnus antérieurement, au moins en théorie, son travail se réduirait presque à rien."

Les Articles 335 et 340 sont ainsi modifiés par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice: les mots "dont elles jouissaient avant la guerre" de l'Article 335 sont remplacés par ceux de "dont elles ont toujours joui."

Le premier alinéa de l'Article 340 est supprimé.

A l'Article 346 qui suit, *le Baron de Kosjek* propose de remplacer les mots "si cette demande est justifiée" par "s'il n'y voit aucun inconvénient."

"Art. 346. Les prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes recevront comme par le passé leur investiture de la Sublime Porte.

"Si une communauté Chrétienne se trouve privée de pasteurs de son rite, qu'elle en fasse la demande; le Gouvernement Impérial devra rechercher, sans retard, si la demande est justifiée et, dans ce cas, il y fera immédiatement droit."

A l'appui de sa proposition, le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait remarquer que la nomination des autorités ecclésiastiques aux postes vacants peut créer au Gouvernement Impérial des difficultés de divers genres, les unes de l'ordre politique, comme par exemple celles qui peuvent résulter des divergences existant entre le Patriarcat œcuménique et l'Exarchat Bulgare; les autres, d'un genre plus restreint, comme par exemple celles qui proviendraient quelquefois des répugnances de la Sublime Porte à nommer certains des candidats proposés.

"A mon avis," ajoute le Baron de Kosjek, "la Commission Européenne n'est nullement compétente pour insérer dans le Statut administratif dont elle s'occupe un Article de nature à préjuger, même indirectement, la solution du différend entre le Patriarcat et l'Exarchat Bulgare. Du reste, je ne suis pas muni, à cet égard, d'instructions spéciales de mon Gouvernment qui tient à cœur, avec une égale sollicitude, l'amélioration du sort de toutes les populations de la presqu'île des Balkans, sans distinction de race ni de religion."

M. Hitrovo propose de supprimer dans le texte de l'Article 346, tel qu'il a été amendé par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice, le mot "immédiatement" et de remplacer dans l'amendement proposé par le Baron de Kosjek le mot "inconvénient" par le mot "objection."

Le Baron de Kosjek accepte ce contre-amendement de son collègue de Russie, en se référant au point de vue général qu'il vient de développer.

Le Chevalier Vernoni fait observer que la nouvelle loi ne doit porter aucune restriction à l'existence des communautés déjà reconnues, ni à l'exercice de leur culte, ni à celui de leur administration religieuse et hiérarchique. Le Commissaire d'Italie désirerait que cette nouvelle loi établisse, d'une manière incontestable, le droit de chaque communauté à avoir son Evêque et ses pasteurs légalement reconnus, et qu'aucune entrave ne soit portée à la délivrance de leur exéquatur. "En agissant

autrement," ajoute-t-il, "ce serait porter atteinte au principe de libre exercice des cultes admis par la Sublime Porte et confirmé par la Commission."

L'Article 346 du Chapitre précité est modifié ainsi qu'il suit:—

"Les Prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes recevront, comme par le passé, leur investiture de la Sublime Porte.

"Si une communauté Chrétienne se trouve privée de pasteurs de son rite, et qu'elle en fasse la demande, le Gouvernement Impérial devra rechercher, sans retard, si la demande ne soulève pas d'objections et, dans ce cas, il y fera droit."

Le Chapitre des cultes proposé par Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice est adopté, par six Commissaires, avec les modifications y introduites, dans la forme ci-après:

Chapitre des Cultes.

Art. . Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale conservent les droits, immunités, privilèges et exemption dont elles ont toujours joui.

Art. . Aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communautés, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels, indigènes ou étrangers.

Art. . Les membres des différents clergés ne peuvent, sous aucun prétexte, être privés des honneurs et préséances que les Sultans leur ont accordés.

Art. . Les ecclésiastiques, pèlerins, et les moines de toutes les nationalités voyageant ou établis temporairement jouissent des avantages acquis aux membres indigènes des clergés dont ils font partie.

Art. . Les dispositions de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin relatives à la protection des personnes mentionnées à l'Article précédent et de leurs établissements religieux ou de bienfaisance, reçoivent leur plein effet dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Art. . Toutefois, les personnes qui n'appartiennent à aucun culte reconnu pourront pratiquer librement le leur, pourvu qu'il n'ait rien de contraire aux bonnes mœurs et à l'ordre public. Elles devront, d'ailleurs, se conformer aux lois et règlements sur la matière.

Art. . Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale conservent leurs biens meubles et immeubles.

Elles ne peuvent être expropriées de leurs biens immeubles que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, dans le cas et de la manière établis par la loi, moyennant une juste et préalable indemnité.

Elles ne peuvent être expropriées de leurs biens meubles que pour satisfaire à un intérêt majeur de salubrité publique.

Art. . Les communautés religieuses continuent à percevoir, avec l'aide et sous la protection des autorités publiques, les redevances consacrées par l'usage. Le montant de ses redevances ne pourra être élevé qu'en vertu d'une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général, rendue en la forme d'un règlement d'Administration Publique.

Le produit des redevances en question échappe à l'impôt.

Art. . Sont pareillement exempts d'impôts les édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à des œuvres de charité, ainsi que les habitations de ville et de campagne des membres des différents clergés; enfin les enclos où se trouvent ces édifices et habitations.

Le même privilège s'étend au mobilier des édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à un but charitable; il s'étend aussi aux meubles à l'usage des membres du clergé et de toute personne attachée, à un titre quelconque, au service d'un édifice religieux, scolaire, ou affecté à une œuvre de charité.

Art. . Les différentes communautés seront tenues de faire face aux charges qui pèsent actuellement sur elles en ce qui concerne l'entretien de leurs établissements scolaires et charitables.

Art. . Les immeubles appartenant aux communautés religieuses, et qui ne servent directement ni au culte, ni à l'instruction, ni à une œuvre charitable, mais qui doivent être considérés comme des propriétés de rapport sont, en matière d'impôt, soumis au droit commun.

Il en est de même des valeurs mobilières productives de revenus.

Art. . Les Prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes recevront, comme par le passé, leur investiture de la Sublime Porte.

Si une communauté Chrétienne se trouve privée de pasteurs de son rite, et qu'elle en fasse la demande, le Gouvernement Impérial devra rechercher, sans retard, si la demande ne soulève pas d'objections, et, dans ce cas, il y fera droit.

Les Commissaires Ottomans rejettent l'ensemble du Chapitre des Cultes parce

qu'ils y voient une question politico-religieuse, dans laquelle la Commission est incompétente.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la suite des Articles du Projet.

Le Président donne lecture des Articles.

Les Articles 235, 236, et 237 sont adoptés à l'unanimité comme suit :—

"Art. 235. Les écoles du vilayet sont placées sous la haute surveillance du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique du vilayet.

"Art. 236. L'allocation aux écoles, dans le budget annuel du vilayet, d'une subvention, ainsi que la distribution de la somme allouée, se fera par l'intermédiaire du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, sur la décision du Conseil d'Administration. La subvention accordée aux écoles sera répartie entre elles approximativement en proportion de la participation des différentes communautés au paiement des impôts dans le vilayet.

"Art. 237. Les écoles primaires, secondaires, des arts et métiers, normales et autres à créer sont établies conformément à la loi. Les professeurs des écoles de vilayet sont soumis aux lois qui règlent les droits et les devoirs des autres fonctionnaires publics.

"L'administration des écoles primaires et secondaires reviendra aux communautés respectives. Tous les revenus des Vakoufs appartenant à ses écoles leur seront abandonnés."

Les Articles 238, 240, et 242 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Les Articles 239 et 241 sont, après quelques modifications introduites par la Commission, adoptés à l'unanimité, dans la forme ci-après :—

"Art. 239. Tout particulier, à quelque nationalité ou culte qu'il appartienne, a le droit d'établir une école, pourvu qu'il remplisse les conditions de moralité prescrites par la loi.

"Art. 241. L'instruction dans les écoles publiques d'un enfant peut être remplacée par l'enseignement privé."

L'Article 243 est adopté par six Commissaires :—

"Art. 243. La haute surveillance des écoles publiques et privées appartiennent au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, lequel l'exerce conformément aux lois et Règlements au moyen d'Inspecteurs. Les Inspecteurs sont pris parmi les Notables de la communauté dont ils surveillent les écoles.

"Ils veillent à ce que les élèves fréquentent assidûment les écoles primaires. Ils surveillent le corps enseignant, envoient de temps en temps, au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, des rapports sur la bonne conduite, le zèle et la persévérance des instituteurs, ainsi que sur l'observation par ces derniers des dispositions des lois et règlements concernant le programme des études et autres."

Les Commissaires Ottomans votent pour le maintien du texte primitif de cet Article.

Les Articles 244, 246, 247, et 248 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'Article 245 est supprimé à l'unanimité.

L'Article 249, dont on supprime une partie, est adopté à l'unanimité, comme suit :

"Art. 249. La nomination, l'avancement, la destitution et la mise à la retraite des fonctionnaires des vilayets ont lieu en conformité de la loi."

L'Article 250, amendé comme ci-dessous, est accepté par six Commissaires :

"Art. 250. Les Valis, les Mutessarifs, et les principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet sont choisis par le Gouvernement Central et nommés en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article (ancien Article 20) de la présente loi.

"Les Directeurs peuvent être choisis parmi les membres du Conseil Général, auquel cas, leur siège au Conseil devient vacant. Le Vali aura le droit d'employer des étrangers dans l'Administration. Les Caïmmeams sont choisis et nommés par le Vali. Le fait de leur nomination est porté à la connaissance du Ministère de l'Intérieur. Les Mudirs, ainsi qu'il a été indiqué à l'Article 163, sont choisis parmi les membres des Conseils des Nahiés élus par la population ; ils sont nommés par le Mutessarif ; leur nomination est signalée à l'Administration du vilayet qui la confirme, et qui, à son tour, avertit le Ministère de l'Intérieur.

"Les Mouhassébédjis des livas sont nommés par le Ministère des Finances. Les Secrétaires de la Correspondence des livas et des cazas, les Premiers Secrétaires des Administrations, des Conseils et autres, les Mal-Mudirs et les Percepteurs sont nommés par les Valis."

Les Commissaires Ottomans rejettent les modifications introduites à cet Article,

parce que la faculté de choisir les Directeurs parmi les membres du Conseil Général implique une ingérence indirecte de ces membres dans le pouvoir exécutif.

Les Articles 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, et 262 sont, d'un commun accord, supprimés.

Après un échange d'idées, les Articles 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, et 269 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

L'Article 269 *bis* est adopté à l'unanimité, dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 269. Les enquêtes préliminaires et la mise en accusation des principaux fonctionnaires du vilayet autres que le Vali, seront effectués par le Conseil Administratif du vilayet."

Les Articles 270, 271, et 272 sont adoptés à l'unanimité.

Les Commissaires Ottomans se réservent de présenter un amendement à l'Article 271.

L'Article 273 est adopté à l'unanimité, dans la forme suivante :

"Art. 273. Si, pendant le jugement, il est prouvé que l'accusation élevée contre un fonctionnaire est dénuée de fondement et qu'elle est le résultat d'une calomnie, le fonctionnaire calomnié peut intenter une action en diffamation."

Le nouvel Article, ci-après, est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Art. . Tous les fonctionnaires d'un vilayet accusés de crime ou de délit sont jugés d'après la loi et ne jouiront d'aucun privilège spécial comme tels."

Sur la proposition de *Lord Ed. Fitzmaurice* l'Article Final ci-après est adopté à l'unanimité :

"Art. . Toute disposition de loi contraire à celles de la présente loi est abolie."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 2 Août :

1. Le Chapitre de la justice ;
2. Le Chapitre de la police et de la gendarmerie ;
3. Toute proposition additionnelle pourrait être faite par MM. les Commissaires sur les Articles de l'ensemble du Projet de Loi.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SÉON.
C. CARTWRIGHT.
GRITZENKO.
M. RÉCHID.

No. 348.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 9, 1880.

AT the meeting of the Commission held yesterday, an amendment, attaching two Assessors, one a Mussulman, and the other a non-Mussulman, to the Court of the Justice of the Peace, was, on my motion, adopted unanimously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 349.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 459. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 7, 1880.*

BARON KÁLLAY has asked me what I knew of a proposal of Mr. Goschen's, that Janina should be excluded from the territory that Turkey is to be called upon to cede to Greece.

Upon my saying that I had heard nothing of any such proposal, he told me, in strict confidence, that the German Government had inquired the opinion that was entertained of it here.

I repeated that I was quite ignorant of a proposal of that nature having been brought forward by Mr. Goschen, but while I greatly doubted his having done so, I thought it quite possible that he might have expressed an opinion to some of his colleagues that it would not be easy to arrive at a pacific solution of the question as long as Janina was included in the territory to be ceded, and that this had been reported to Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 350.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 461.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 7, 1880.*

BARON KÁLLAY spoke to me this afternoon about your Lordship's proposal that the rejoinder to the Turkish note upon the Greek Frontier question should be drafted by the French Government.

He observed, however, that although the Imperial Government entirely agreed with your Lordship in considering that as the initiative in this matter had originally been taken by the French Government, it would be right to leave it with them. Your Lordship's suggestion about the drafting of the note was the first intimation they had received of an intention to make such a rejoinder at all.

He therefore considered that the first thing was for the Powers to agree whether such an answer was to be sent to the Porte, and the next would be to concert upon the general tenor of the communication which the French Government would be invited to put into form.

The Imperial Government were of opinion, as he believed Baron Haymerle had already told me, that it was desirable to avoid all precipitancy in dealing with the question; the Greek Government were still unprepared, and with the appearance on the part of the Porte of a disposition to bring the settlement of the Montenegrin Frontier question to a conclusion, it would be better, if possible, to see it disposed of before pressing the further demands which the Powers have to urge upon the acceptance of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 351.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 462.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 9, 1880.*

I HAVE given M. de Kállay the explanation desired by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, as stated in his telegram to your Lordship No. 139, upon the position of the Eastern Roumelian Commission in regard to the delimitation of the Turkish vilayets, and there does not appear to me to be any material difference in their views upon the subject.

M. de Kállay spoke, however, of the necessity of bearing in mind the sort of promise that had been given to the Northern Albanians with regard to the Vilayet of Scutari.

The Austro-Hungarian Government considered that the project of M. Lippich, which he believed to have been approved by Mr. Green, contained pretty nearly what was

required for that province, though of course it might require modification in some of its minor details.

He alluded also to the question of the privileges of the Mirdites, which he thought it would be hopeless to endeavour to define as had been recognized at the Congress of Berlin, when the subject was brought before it by M. Waddington.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 352.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 466. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 10, 1880.*

UPON receiving your Lordship's telegram of this morning, I informed Baron Kallay that a question was going to be asked in the House of Commons as to whether, in the event of the Sultan's yielding to the recommendations of the Berlin Congress, the Powers would guarantee to His Majesty the possession of his remaining territory; and I said that your Lordship wished to know whether the Imperial Government would object to a mention in general terms of the proposal referred to in my despatch No. 364, Confidential.

He replied that, in the absence of Baron Haymerle, it would be impossible for him to authorize an allusion to his language, and that a guarantee of the Turkish territory was such a serious matter that he hardly believed his Excellency would have been ready to enter into it without the previous assent of the Emperor and the Council.

I said that the word "guarantee" was probably used in the question which Her Majesty's Government would have to answer in the House of Commons, or it might have been employed by your Lordship in a telegraphic communication simply on account of its conciseness, but it was not to be found in my despatch to which your Lordship alluded, as I had only reported Baron Haymerle to have spoken of an assurance or declaration to be made to the Turkish Government of the intention of the Powers to maintain the rest of the Treaty of Berlin when the Sultan had consented to the sacrifices of territory now demanded of him.

I pointed out, moreover, that it was only in general terms that it was proposed to allude to Baron Haymerle's observation; but Baron Kallay still declined to authorize it, though he said that, without mentioning the Austro-Hungarian Government, it might be stated that the suggestion in question had been made from "certain quarters," or by "some of the foreign Governments."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 353.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 467.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 12, 1880.*

M. DE KALLAY remarked to me this afternoon that it appeared, from an answer given in the House of Commons by Sir Charles Dilke to a question upon the mobilization of the Greek army, that the Austro-Hungarian Government were supposed to have withdrawn their objections to that measure.

This was, however, an entire misapprehension.

The Austrian and German Governments had both expressed at Athens a decided opinion against the mobilization, and, although they had not thought it necessary to repeat their objections to it, they had continued to entertain them, and had certainly said nothing that would induce the Greek Government to suppose that they were withdrawn.

It is considered here that it would be the height of rashness on the part of Greece to provoke hostilities with Turkey, for it is believed that even if the squadrons of the Powers were to protect the coast, the Turkish army would have little difficulty in penetrating to the heart of the kingdom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 354.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 468. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 12, 1880.*

MR. GOULD has reported to your Lordship that negotiations appear to be going on under Russian pressure for an offensive and defensive alliance between Servia and Bulgaria, and I have inquired confidentially of Baron Kallay whether the Austro-Hungarian Government had heard anything to the same effect.

He said that up to the present time he was aware of nothing to lead him to believe in the correctness of this report, and he believed that no such alliance could be brought about between two Principalities, of which each has its designs upon the same portions of Turkish territory.

Prince Milan, while at Vienna, had spoken with earnestness, and not without evident anxiety, of the ambitious tendency of Bulgaria, and Baron Kallay thought him little likely to bind himself too closely in Bulgarian projects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 355.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 470.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

THE Austrian Government have received from Constantinople the same report as has been sent to your Lordship by Mr. Goschen of the intention of the Porte to answer the note upon the Montenegrin frontier question, by intimating that it meant to carry out the April Convention, but asking for three weeks more to enable it to execute the Dulcigno arrangement in the event of the other being found impracticable.

The Imperial Government do not consider it necessary at present that any notice should be taken of this request.

By the collective note, the Turkish Government were allowed three weeks within which they were to carry out the Corti agreement, and they were warned that if they fail to do so within the prescribed period, they would be called upon to assist the Powers in putting Montenegro into possession of the Dulcigno district.

If they do this without the co-operation of the Powers so much the better; but M. de Kallay thinks that the line laid down in the note should be adhered to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 356.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 472.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

AS I have had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph, M. de Kallay entirely agrees with you in considering it essential that there should be no change of tone in the language held to the Porte which might lead the Porte to suppose that the Cabinets are hesitating, as the only chance of its giving way lies in a belief that all the Governments are firm in maintaining their demand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 357.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 474.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

WHEN I spoke to M. de Kallay upon the question of the dissolution or adjournment of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, he appeared at first of opinion that it might properly be dissolved; but upon being informed that Her Majesty's Government considered that it ought only to be adjourned and kept in existence till the laws for all the Turkish provinces in Europe had been examined by it, he said that he had no objection to the adoption of this course.

I have, &c,
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 358.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 475. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

I HAVE not yet received from the Austro-Hungarian Government the reports which they had promised me of the Russian officers and soldiers at present in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, as those which they had were not of very recent date, and they wished to insure their correctness.

Count Khevenhüller, the Imperial Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria, is at present in Vienna, and I took an opportunity of asking him if he had an idea of the number of rifles that had lately arrived from Russia.

He said that the explanation given to your Lordship about these arms by Prince Lobanoff was simply ridiculous; that to his own knowledge 40,000 rifles of the improved pattern had been received in Bulgaria before he left it, and there were, in addition, large stores of the less modern arms.

In addition to this there was scarcely a Bulgarian peasant who did not possess a good Henry-Martini rifle, supplied from those that had been left by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 359.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 476. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 13, 1880.*

I HAD yesterday some conversation with Prince Charles of Roumania, who spent a day in Vienna on his way first to Ischl and then to Sigmaringen.

He expressed his warm recognition for the support he had received from Her Majesty's Government and from those of the other Powers on the question of his rights in regard to Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria.

With the many questions affecting his subjects in Bulgaria the matter was really one of extreme importance to him.

If he had only to deal with Prince Alexander he should have little anxiety, but the Bulgarian Government were nearly independent of the control of their Prince, and the people had not had a political education to qualify them for the exercise of the power they had acquired.

I told the Prince that Her Majesty's Government had learnt with much pleasure the measures he had adopted in favour of his new Mahommedan subjects in the Dobrudscha, and that I hoped he had reason to be satisfied with their conduct.

His Highness replied that their conduct had been admirable throughout, and he looked upon the Tartars, of whom there are many in the Dobrudscha, as being possessed of more good qualities than any of the other races inhabiting European Turkey; but he regretted that many of them, notwithstanding all his efforts, were showing a disposition to emigrate,

the reason of it being that although they had remained perfectly quiet and had taken no part during the war, their villages had been utterly destroyed by the Russians and Bulgarians.

He said it was pitiful to see large and formerly prosperous villages that had been devastated till not a house remained standing, and the wanton wreck of their property seemed to have deprived the poor people of the heart to attempt their reconstruction.

It has sometimes been said that the destruction of the Turkish villages was only the consequence of their having been abandoned by their inhabitants, but Prince Charles' statement of what occurred in the Dobrudscha does not support that theory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 360.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 477. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 14, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's despatch No. 63 respecting the wish of Prince Charles of Roumania to take the title of King, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have always attributed the indisposition hitherto shown by the Austro-Hungarian Government to consent to it in great part to an unwillingness to encourage the Prince of Servia to put forward a similar pretension.

The ancient but short-lived Kingdom of Servia included territories which this country would not allow to be annexed to it, and the revival of the title might be expected to give an impulse to the national traditions.

Baron Kallay is not aware of Colonel Catargi having spoken on this subject with Baron Haymerle, as has been represented to Mr. Gould, and he believes that, had any such conversation taken place, his Excellency would have mentioned it to him.

If Prince Charles were to become King, it would no doubt be with the previous consent of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, and Colonel Catargi is not likely to have exposed himself to the answer that he would have received from Baron Haymerle if he had intimated that the Prince of Servia might take upon himself to set aside the arrangement of the Treaty upon his own responsibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 361.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 478.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, August* 6, 1880.

I AM in a position to add the following items to the military intelligence I had the honour of communicating to your Excellency a few days ago:

The new Minister of Home Defence, Major-General Count Welfersheimb, considering the present occasion ripe for carrying out a proposal which has been made for some time, is about to enforce on the population of South Dalmatia the obligation of general service in the Landwehr, which for nearly twelve years has remained in abeyance.

It will be remembered that a similar attempt to impose universal service on the inhabitants of the Bocche de Cakaro and Ragusa led to deplorable disturbances in 1869,

which only terminated by the lame compromise of Knezlac, and the result was that the South Dalmatians were allowed to form the only exceptions to the rule of general conscription for the Imperial army, at the same time submitting to a compulsory enrolment in the Militia or Landwehr.

Up to now, however, the natives of the Bocche and Ragusa have not been called on to contribute this service; and the experiment is at length to be made of seeing whether or no the authorities of a great military Power can carry out their scheme of general defence without having to contend with another insurrection, or meeting another check from a handful of the population.

The "Neue Freie Presse," commenting on Count Welfersheimb's action, points out that though the Prince of Montenegro, who is said to have secretly abetted his brother Slavs, is still alive, the Austrian Government now possesses that backbone to Dalmatia (Herzegovina), the want of which was perhaps the chief cause of their ill-success in 1869.

It strikes many opinions that this sudden resuscitation of a scheme which has been allowed to slumber a dozen years is due to the nervous anxieties of this Government, which discerns in the Albanian and Greek difficulties additional reasons for the development of its forces in those latitudes.

Relative to manœuvres, it has been announced that the Emperor will attend the siege works that are to be carried out at Olmutz on the 29th instant. Nothing has been said to lead me to suppose, however, that any foreign officers will be invited to accompany His Majesty.

The usual exercises of the field telegraphs will take place this year at Presburg-Luiz, Prague, Pettan, and Klostemenburg. Those at Klostemenburg will be limited to the training of the *personnel*, and experiments in the capacity and employment of a detachment completed to its effective strength. At the other places, the reserves, both men and the non-commissioned officers told off for the construction and demolition of lines, are to be called in from the 27th of August to the 7th of September, and attached for instruction to the battalions of pioneers stationed there.

The unfortunate part of all these arrangements for the exercise of the various arms and aids to the services is that the same period is fixed for all of them.

My duty takes me of course to the displays which the Emperor personally honours, for to those I am officially asked; but I cannot but think greater instruction and greater interest are to be found in those less carefully prepared and less generally known operations which take place at other parts of the Empire. For instance, the assemblies of the troops at Gratz, the frontier battalions at Innsbruck, the trials of the telegraphs, &c., and the drills of the Hungarians on the Rahocz, would give more insight and enable one to form a better judgment of the real value of this army than the larger mobilizations arranged and mapped out, with the greatest trouble, by inspectors-general, staff officers, and court officials, with a view to make everything go well, and look well, and the governing idea that as criticism is invited, as little as possible must be shown or seen to give rise to unfavourable reports.

It seems to me, therefore, that single technical officers sent to two or three points of observation would be of great service at such seasons, while the Military Attaché proceeds to those special show reviews to which his presence is courteously invited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Grenadier Guards, Military Attaché.

No. 362.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 330. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 9, 1880.

ON Friday M. de Giers called upon me, and touched, not I think undesignedly, upon M. Sabouroff's advocacy of Greek interests at the Berlin Conference. He told me that M. Sabouroff's instructions were to support whatever proposition was most favourable to Greece, but in any event to side with the majority. This M. Sabouroff had not done, but on his own responsibility, and without any previous communication with M. de Giers, had very unadvisedly submitted a scheme of his own, which went considerably beyond what any other Power had dreamt of suggesting. Nevertheless, M. Sabouroff's conduct had proved agreeable to the Emperor, though he (M. de Giers) had warned His Majesty that it would probably entail inconvenient consequences.

M. de Giers proceeded to hint that even the line adopted by the Conference perhaps gave more to Greece than was either advisable or practicable.

His Excellency also insisted upon the inconsequential character of a mere naval demonstration, a line of criticism which, during the last day or two, has been pretty generally adopted by the Diplomatic Body here.

M. de Giers concluded by observing that he was a "terre-à-terre" politician, and disapproved of the lofty flights through the empyrean in which Baron Jomini, M. Sabouroff, and others were too prompt to indulge.

I then asked him if he could tell me what influence prompted the Emperor to side with M. Sabouroff rather than with himself. "Had the Queen of Greece," said I, "anything to do with it?" By the promptness with which M. de Giers replied in the affirmative, I strongly suspect Her Majesty had nothing to say to the affair.

One of my colleagues endeavours to account for M. Sabouroff's conduct, on the theory that it has become an object with Russia to extend the western littoral of Greece, with the view of diverting her attention from the seaboard of Macedonia.

Be that as it may, we have now seen two Ambassadors, within less than a month, making important proposals and initiating schemes, not only without the concurrence, but contrary to the wishes of the Russian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the conduct of one of these gentlemen has been certainly approved of by the Emperor. This illustrates a characteristic of the Russian Administration, to which I have already drawn your Lordship's attention, namely, the want of unity in its counsels, and the difficulty an Ambassador has in getting face to face with the responsible framer and exponent of its policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 363.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 331. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1880.*

A WELL-INFORMED person told me yesterday that he knew that M. de Giers had discussed the question whether, in view of the difficulty of forcing the Porte to accept the decision of the Berlin Conference, it might not be possible to give Candia to Greece instead of the proposed extended frontier.

To-day the Italian Minister called upon me, and, having taken the precaution of stating that he was only speaking academically, Chevalier Nigra mooted the same idea, and intimated that he made no doubt, if recommended by England, it would be readily assented to by Russia. Taken in conjunction with what seems to have fallen from M. de Giers on Friday, it is just possible that the Italian Ambassador may have approached me at his instigation, or, at all events, with his knowledge.

As I held out no hopes to M. Nigra that Her Majesty's Government would recede from the position unanimously adopted by the Powers at the Berlin Conference, it is possible that M. de Giers, who is evidently most anxious to remain in concert with the English Government, will not revert to the subject.

I will ask your Lordship to keep this communication secret, as my conversation with M. Nigra was quite confidential and unofficial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 364.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 11, 1880.*

WITH reference to the despatches Nos. 1 and 2, Confidential, sent under flying seal by this messenger, by Her Majesty's Consul at Galatz, I beg to report that information, derived from Roumanian sources and from several places situated on the Danube, fully corroborates the statements received by Mr. Consul Sanderson, as reported by him, that ammunition waggons, ammunition, and other military stores are being constantly sent by Russia into Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 365.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 356. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 13, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE, who has been absent from Berlin for some days, returned yesterday, so that I was able to see his Highness to-day, and tell him in the course of conversation, without entering into details, that your Lordship heard from Constantinople that the firmness of the Cabinets was doubted by the Turks, which made it particularly desirable that no change of tone should appear.

Mr. Goschen, I said, telegraphed that he had not made or suggested any change as to Janina, and your Lordship was of opinion that it would be better to adhere to the line of frontier agreed to at the Conference of Berlin, which had been adopted after careful thought and discussion, as that which was best under the circumstances, and most in consonance with the indications given at the Congress in 1878.

Prince Hohenlohe replied that he fully agreed with your Lordship, that the Powers should adhere to the Berlin award.

The suggestion respecting Janina and the compromise respecting Crete, which appeared in the confidential reports from the Ambassadors at Constantinople, seemed to have originated in private, personal, and secret overtures made separately to them by Abédine Pasha, and confidentially talked over amongst themselves.

Personally, he was of opinion that the Powers should not deviate from the advice already given to the Porte, should adhere to the Berlin award, and leave its realization to time and circumstances.

The Austrian Government seemed to think that the Turkish reply respecting Greece might even be left unanswered. It was evident that none of the Powers were disposed to coerce Turkey by force of arms. Germany had agreed to "show her flag" if naval demonstrations were decided upon by concerted Europe, but she was not prepared to do more; and from the information he had received, France and Austria seemed similarly disposed.

United Europe could afford to wait and give time to the Turks to reflect over the friendly advice already given to them.

I said that time and circumstances would probably lead to a conflict between Greece and Turkey, but that I was meanwhile glad to hear that his Highness had faith in the moral influence of united Europe, and was favourable to its maintenance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 366.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 358.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 14, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE having been summoned by the Emperor to the Castle at Babelsberg, I communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram of last night respecting the proposed rejoinder to the Porte on the subject of the Greek frontier to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Privy Councillor von Busch, who will submit it to his Highness when he returns to Berlin.

The German Government will, I think, concur in your Lordship's proposed answer to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 367.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 14, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE spoke to me on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 481 of the 9th instant respecting the proposal of the Ambassadors at Constantinople,

that Count Hatzfeldt should negotiate on their behalf with the Porte as to the details of the surrender of the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, and said that he fully agreed in the views your Lordship had expressed to Baron von Brincken on the 9th instant, namely, that the Ambassadors should draw up among themselves a memorandum of the conditions which they would think best adapted to secure the peaceful transfer of the territory in question, and should ask the Doyen to present it, according to diplomatic usage on similar occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 368.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 738. Secret.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 16, 1880.*

IN my Secret despatch No. 706 of the 9th instant I made some observations on what I believe to be the present policy of M. de Freycinet's Cabinet with reference to the Eastern question, and my Very Confidential despatch No. 728 of the 13th instant relates to the same matter.

Your Lordship will have remarked the change of tone which has been manifest in M. de Freycinet's language to me during the last ten days. Till then, both to Lord Lyons and myself, he seemed to hang back, and he was reserved; since then he has been much more open, and he has professed his readiness to aid in the European concert, and to act especially in unison with England.

Almost coincident with this change of tone in the head of the Cabinet, *i.e.*, on the 10th instant, the "République Française" broke silence in the article of which I had the honour to transmit copies in my despatch No. 717 of that day. It declared unequivocally for the concert of Europe. On the 13th instant its leading article contained a vigorous defence of England and her policy, taking for its text the assertion of Vienna newspapers, that England and Russia were threatening the peace of Europe. As far as England was concerned, the article declared that never was such an accusation so devoid of foundation. It said:—

"Le Gouvernement Libéral est, pour le moment, très-absorbé par ses propres affaires. Des faits de politique intérieure, sans compter les complications d'Afghanistan, constituent une somme de préoccupations suffisante pour le détourner d'entreprises hasardeuses. Pour le reste, l'action extérieure du Cabinet Libéral ne présente aucun caractère belliqueux; elle est ce qu'elle devait être. Mr. Gladstone et ses collaborateurs ont pris franchement et loyalement l'héritage de leurs prédécesseurs au pouvoir: ils ont hautement affirmé l'intention d'accepter les dispositions du Traité de Berlin et d'aider à son exécution intégrale; ils ont donné immédiatement des gages de leur bonne foi en demandant à l'Europe de régler définitivement la question Grecque; et cette initiative était tellement justifiée, que les Puissances y ont répondu sans hésitation.

"L'action Anglaise s'est manifestée aussi dans la question du Monténégro, et dans un sens favorable à une solution conforme aux dispositions du Traité."

On the 14th instant the "République Française," in its leading article, commenced by declaring that, when any reliable news was required on the Eastern question, it was almost always best to consult the debates in the House of Commons, where questions were constantly put and answered, and the regret is expressed that no such custom prevails in the French Chambers.

From information which has reached me quite lately, confirming and completing much that I had already heard, I believe that what has happened is this:—

When Her Majesty's present Government came into power, what M. Gambetta would have wished was that they would have come to him, that is to France, and said, "Let England and France take the lead in the Eastern question as they have done in Egypt."

When Her Majesty's Government addressed themselves to Europe instead of to France, M. Gambetta retired from the scene for the moment, and allowed things to take their course. In a general way, I believe, he does not interfere with the Cabinet. Its President, therefore, shaped his own policy for the nonce, according to his own particular disposition. Frightened at the tone of the French press, frightened at the idea that an active policy might lead to complications in which his Cabinet would be seriously blamed, would thus lose ground in the country, and would thereby imperil its existence, at all

events beyond the elections of 1881, M. de Freycinet held back, and thus the report conveyed by Lord Odo Russell to your Lordship, that the French Government was intriguing both at Berlin and St. Petersburgh against the projected naval demonstration as an impotent measure, becomes consistent with their attitude.

But as time wore on, and the European concert gained strength, M. Gambetta and his intimates, the "Gérance de la République Française," as it has been described to me, began to reflect, and Opportunism agreed that, if this European concert were broken up, some other Power, or Powers, might take up the parable, and might leave France, and England too, out in the cold.

It also argued that, as England has her troubles in Ireland, and other troubles in Afghanistan, she might, if the European concert no longer existed, retire from the front in the Eastern question, and simply look after her own domestic concerns.

Hence the change at the Quai d'Orsay, and hence the articles in the "République Française."

The "Gérance" of that paper, as I am assured, felt that they must support England; to her they are drawn by sympathy and by interest. Had they not acted, France would hardly have agreed to the naval demonstration; as it is, for the present, at least, they will work cordially with England, and France will follow in her steps; but, at the same time, I still believe that there is no present intention, either at the "Gérance" or at the Quai d'Orsay, of taking any initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 369.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 741.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 16, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 14th instant, your Lordship's despatches Nos. 1120, 1121, 1122, and 1123 of the previous day, and the inclosures, with reference to the proposed naval demonstration in connection with the Montenegrin frontier question.

In accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I addressed notes on the 14th instant to M. de Freycinet with reference to the first three of these despatches. I suggested to the French Government that, if not inconvenient, their ships of war should rendezvous in the first instance at Palermo; I furnished M. de Freycinet with a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 1121, together with a draft of the instructions prepared for the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station, and whilst I requested to be informed, at their early convenience, whether the French Government are ready to send similar instructions to the French Senior Naval Officer, I begged M. de Freycinet to communicate to me the views of this Government with reference to the last paragraph but one in your Lordship's last-mentioned despatch. I also called the attention of the French Government to the expediency of avoiding the appearance of the allied squadrons off the coast of South Albania while on their way to the Duleigno coast, as any premature demonstration might have the effect of causing the Albanians to combine for resistance to Greece.

M. de Freycinet left Paris yesterday morning, and to-day I called upon Baron de Courcel, who returned at the latter end of last week, and has resumed the direction of political affairs at the French Foreign Office.

I asked M. de Courcel whether he could give me any answer to my notes of the 14th. He replied that it was of course necessary to refer them to the Ministry of Marine: that this had been done, and that Admiral Jauréguiberry, the Minister of Marine, was charged with the interim during M. de Freycinet's absence.

M. de Courcel assured me that I should be informed of the views of the French Government in reference to my notes with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 370.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

Mon cher Lord Granville, *Le 17 Août*, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous communiquer le télégramme ci-joint que je viens de recevoir de St. Pétersbourg.

Il confirme l'opinion que vous avez bien voulu m'exprimer hier. Mais vous y remarquerez, relativement à la localité de Grouda, une observation qui demanderait, je crois, à être éclaircie.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) LOBANOW.

Inclosure in No. 370.

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Août*, 1880.

LE Prince Nicolas accepte la combinaison Dulcigno, mais craint que les troupes Turques envoyées de Constantinople ne servent à renforcer les Albanais.

Les observations de la Porte relativement à Dinosi et Grouda font penser qu'elle n'est pas sincère et qu'elle ne cherche qu'à traîner l'affaire et à déjouer la démonstration navale.

Dinosi n'est pas une place forte, mais presqu'un faubourg de Podgoritza, que les Monténégrins peuvent occuper à tout moment.

Quant à Grouda, aucun village de cette tribu, Dinosi excepté, ne fait partie de la combinaison Dulcigno.

No. 371.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 17*, 1880.

M. KALLAY has telegraphed to ask the opinion of the other Cabinets upon the Turkish proposal to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement, except as regards Dinoschi, but his language led me to infer that he would gladly agree to it.

He dwelt upon the naval assistance that the Powers could give to Montenegro in taking possession of Dulcigno, and of their powerlessness to do so to the east of the lake.

He was very emphatic in his declarations that Austria would not send troops there, and spoke of the importance of the question being soon settled.

No. 372.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 17*, 1880.

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's reports, the Austrian Government appear quite to accept the assurances of the Russian Government that they are at present discouraging any revolutionary or unionist movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and that they are able to prevent it.

This does not, however, weaken the conviction that Russia keeps the union in view, and has been doing everything in her power to render a movement for it successful as soon as a favourable opportunity occurs.

I hope to be able to send your Lordship the accounts that have been received here respecting the Russian officers and arms.

No. 373.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17, 12·10 P.M.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 17*, 1880, 6 A.M.

THE last meeting of the Commission will probably be on Monday next.

I hope to have permission to leave this on Friday, the 27th.

No. 374.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 17*, 1880, 8·30 A.M.

PRIVATE meeting of Commissioners to-day. My recommendation as to four Albanian sandjaks being formed, which might gradually be united into one vilayet, not accepted. All my colleagues except Russian declined to support the specific mention of names of places or districts, even by way of advice, as being beyond our province.

I consider that since Austrian Ambassador's arrival the attitude of the Austrian Commissioner has changed.

My proposal as to Greek islands accepted, and adjournment of the Commission, as against dissolution.

No. 375.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17, 2·15 P.M.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 17*, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

I HAVE sent following to Admiral Seymour, who was about to leave Palermo :—

"(Confidential.)

"In accordance with suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, orders have been given to Italian iron-clads destined to naval demonstration to rendezvous at Palermo."

No. 376.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 17*, 1880, 2·10 P.M.

I HAVE seen Cowell with reference to your telegrams Nos. 385 and 389.

M. de Freycinet, in telegrams to Rome and London and other Embassies, asked whether it would be wise to give a positive refusal to the Turkish proposal, because of the false position in which the Powers might find themselves if the Dulcigno demonstration were to take place when the Porte had virtually abandoned that place, and whether it would not be wiser to accept rest of Dulcigno arrangement, and go on negotiating respecting Dinosi and Gruda.

This was a suggestion from the French Government for the consideration of the other Powers, and nothing was said about acceptance of proposal for further delay.

Your Lordship will now have received the official communication from the French Ambassador.

No. 377.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 17, 11 P.M.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 17*, 1880, 4·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 382.

Nothing definite was settled with regard to German Ambassador being asked to be the organ of communication with the Porte in the Montenegro frontier negotiations.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs asked that one of us should be named to negotiate details of surrender question on behalf of the others. The Doyen seemed the only suitable choice. It was understood that in any case he was only to be the organ of communication, and was not to have power to settle anything without reference to the remaining Ambassadors.

Russian Ambassador was averse to any single Ambassador speaking, even under these restrictions, for the rest. He thought that negotiations could be conducted with all six, but ultimately gave way. We treated the discussion as preliminary only. German Ambassador telegraphed to know whether, if he were asked to be spokesman, he might accept.

No. 378.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 474.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires to-day communicated to me last Turkish proposal as to Montenegrin frontier, with an inquiry from Austrian Government as to our opinion of it.

I said I had asked him to ascertain the view of his Government on the subject last Thursday, adding that my inclination was to adhere to the programme of the collective note.

Yesterday I had heard of a proposal made by France, and agreed to by Italy, that the Porte should be asked to surrender immediately the territory round Dulcigno which they were ready to cede, while the Powers should maintain right of Montenegro to the two villages excluded. I had declined giving an answer till I knew opinion of other Powers, but had stated my own inclination to keep to collective note. To-day French Ambassador told me that Austria would agree to the French proposal if other Powers did so, but would prefer in that case to surrender the claim to the two villages. I had still declined a positive answer, wishing to know opinion of Austrian Government from their Chargé d'Affaires. I was surprised, therefore, at his present communication not giving me the views of Austria. I added that I did not know opinion of German Government, but Russian Government seemed to wish to keep to original programme. I could not depart from decision of collective note without consulting my colleagues, and I feared that any departure from it would encourage the Turks to delay in future, but if Austria and Germany were ready to recommend the Austrian modification of Franco-Italian proposal, it was not impossible that Her Majesty's Government would favourably consider it.

Austrian Chargé d'Affaires assured me of desire of his Government to act with England.

No. 379.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 422.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 474 to Sir H. Elliot, please ascertain at once the opinion of the German Government on the proposals respecting Montenegro.

No. 380.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 539.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegrams of the 13th instant respecting the Dulcigno arrangement, the substance of which was repeated to your Excellency, I have to instruct you to inquire of the Austro-Hungarian Government whether they do not consider it advisable to adhere to the declaration in the collective note of the 3rd August.

I have at the same time to request that you will call the attention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the views of Mr. Green, as expressed in his despatch

No. 128 of the 29th May, which appear to be shared by Mr. Lippieli, with regard to Dinosi.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 381.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 540.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and said that he was instructed to ask the opinion of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the last proposal of the Porte to execute the Dulcigno arrangement at once, if Dinosi and Gruda were left to Turkey.

I said that I had requested him, on the 12th instant, to ascertain the views of his Government on the subject of the Porte's previous proposal, and had added that Her Majesty's Government were inclined to adhere to the programme laid down in the collective note of the 3rd August. I had heard yesterday of a proposal made by France, and agreed to by Italy, that the Porte should be asked to surrender immediately the territory round Dulcigno which they were ready to cede, while the Powers should maintain the eventual right of Montenegro to the two villages of Dinosi and Gruda. I had declined giving an answer to this proposal until I knew the opinion of the other Powers, but I had stated that my own inclination was to abide by the terms of the collective note.

To-day the French Ambassador had told me that Austria had expressed her readiness to agree to the French proposal if other Powers did so, but would prefer, in that case, altogether to surrender the claim to the two villages. I had still declined to give a positive answer, wishing to know the opinion of the Austrian Government from him. I could not, therefore, help expressing some surprise that his present communication did not give me their views.

I added that I did not know the opinion which the German Government might take of the proposal; but, as far as I knew, the Russian Government seemed to wish to keep to the original programme. I added that I could not depart from the decision expressed in the collective note of the 3rd August without consulting my colleagues, and I expressed a fear that any departure from it would encourage the Turks to make further attempts to delay a solution of the question. If, however, Austria and Germany were ready to recommend to the Powers the Austrian modification of the Franco-Italian proposal, it was not impossible that Her Majesty's Government would consider it favourably.

M. de Hengelmüller assured me that his Government were desirous of acting with England in the matter, and that, whatever importance they might or might not attach to the villages in question, they attached a much greater importance to acting in concert with us.

I answered that I could readily believe it, as it would be perfectly consistent with the relations which have existed between us, and that it gave me great pleasure to hear the statement from him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 382.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 544. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires informed me this afternoon in strict confidence of a report which had reached his Government from Rome.

It appeared that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at that capital had received intelligence from Paris of pending negotiations with a view to intrusting England with the execution of a European mandate for a blockade of Turkish ports, and coercing the Porte by these means to submit to the decisions of the Conference of Berlin.

This statement, M. Hengelmüller said, was contradicted by the British Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, and nothing was apparently known of it in Italian official circles, but he had been desired by his Government to draw my attention confidentially to it, and to the source from which it emanated.

I told M. Hengelmüller that I knew of nothing which could give foundation for such a report, and that I could give it the most absolute contradiction as far as Her Majesty's Government were concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 383.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 550.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and told me that his Government had received a telegram from their Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that at a Conference which took place on the 15th instant, the Ambassadors had decided to address the following despatch to their Governments:—

"Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères nous a annoncé verbalement que la Porte est prête à exécuter l'arrangement de Dulcigno à la double condition que Dinoschi et Gruda restent à la Turquie, et qu'un délai de quelques semaines lui soit accordée pour l'exécution. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a ajouté qui si une entente n'intervient par sur ces bases et qu'une démonstration des Puissances a lieu, le Gouvernement Ottoman n'y prendrait point part."

M. Hengelmüller said that he was instructed to ascertain the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to this proposal.

I remarked to him that on Thursday last, following the course which I have hitherto pursued, of consulting the Austrian Government in regard to the Montenegrin question, I had addressed myself to him to ask his Government what they thought of the Turkish proposal—adding that my inclination was to adhere to the programme of the collective note.

Yesterday I had seen the French Ambassador, who told me of a proposal made by France and agreed to by Italy, that the Porte should be asked to give up immediately the territory round Dulcigno, which they were ready to cede, while the Powers should maintain for the Prince of Montenegro his rights to the villages it was proposed to exclude. I had declined giving any positive answer, I said, till I knew the opinion of other Powers, but I had stated what my inclination was.

To-day I was told by the French Ambassador that Austria would be ready, if all the Powers agreed, to accept at once and without delay the territory offered by the Turks, but in that case to surrender the claim to the two other villages.

I had still declined to give any positive answer, expecting to hear the views of the Austrian Government in the authentic form of a communication from himself. I was surprised at getting nothing but this inquiry as to what were my views and without any reference to what had passed on Thursday, and had been telegraphed by M. Hengelmüller to Vienna.

I added that I did not know the opinion of Germany, but that I had heard to-day from Prince Lobanoff that Russia desired to keep to the original programme.

I said that I could not take upon myself to abandon the decision which had been embodied in the collective note without communication with Mr. Gladstone and my colleagues, and that I was afraid that any departure from it would be a great encouragement to the Turks for the future to resort to negotiations and delays, but that if Austria and Germany were ready to recommend the Franco-Italian proposal, modified as proposed by Austria, I thought it not impossible that Her Majesty's Government would favourably consider it.

M. Hengelmüller told me that he was personally convinced that the first wish of his Government was to act in concert with us, and that without attaching much importance to the villages in question they would attach much greater importance to acting with us in whatever line we took.

I answered that from the previous relations of the two Governments, I thought this was likely to be the case, and I greatly rejoiced at it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 384.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 507.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

I TRANSMIT, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,* reporting a conversation with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the Porte's last proposal to execute the Dulcigno arrangement if the villages of Dinosi and Gruda are left to Turkey, and I have to request your Excellency to ascertain the opinion of the German Government as to the Franco-Italian proposal, that the Porte should be asked to surrender immediately the territory round Dulcigno which it is prepared to cede, the Powers meanwhile maintaining the right of Montenegro to the two villages, and as to the Austrian modification of the above proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 385.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 415.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

PRINCE LOBANOFF communicated to me to-day the telegram from St. Petersburgh, of which a copy is inclosed, stating that the Prince of Montenegro accepts the Dulcigno arrangement, but fears that the troops sent from Constantinople to Scutari will only serve to reinforce the Albanians. The Prince distrusts the sincerity of the Porte, and thinks that the observations respecting Dinosi are only intended to gain time and put off the naval demonstration. Dinosi is the only village of the Gruda tribe which is included in the Dulcigno arrangement, and it is not a strong place, but almost a suburb of Podgoritza, which the Montenegrins could occupy at any time.

Prince Lobanoff called my particular attention to the statement as to Gruda, which he thought required verification.

I thanked his Excellency for this communication, and told him that I had received communications from the French and Italian Governments proposing that the Powers should demand the immediate surrender of that portion of the Dulcigno territory which the Porte proposes to give up, and should, at the same time, reserve to themselves and maintain for Montenegro the right over the two villages of Dinosi and Gruda. With regard to the last-named place, I said that I had received a telegram from your Excellency confirming the impression that there was a misunderstanding about it. I added that Her Majesty's Government were inclined to adhere to the original programme, as laid down in the collective note of the 3rd August, but that I should be glad to have the opinion of the Russian Government, and of other Governments, as to the Franco-Italian proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 386.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 103.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 105 of the 7th ultimo, inclosing copies of correspondence which has passed between you and Mr. Brophy as to the competency of the Court of First Instance at Varna to adjudicate upon mercantile questions in cases where the interests of British subjects are involved, and I approve your instructions to Mr. Brophy to recognize the competency of the Court provisionally, but to make a formal declaration in each case that it shall not form a precedent.

I have to observe that this matter, taken in connection with the proposal of the Bulgarian Government to abolish the Commercial Tribunal at Rustchuk, is governed by the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that accordingly no departure from the *status quo ante* affecting the Capitulations can take place without the assent of the Powers concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 383.

No. 387.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

I HAVE been glad to receive your telegram No. 27 of the 23rd and your despatch No. 66 of the 25th ultimo. The accounts which they give of the rapid progress which has been made in the work of the Eastern Roumelian Commission are very satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 388.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

My dear Prince, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

MANY thanks for your note and inclosure.

After your departure I saw M. Lacour, and I received a message from Rome.

The French and Italian Governments propose that we should demand the immediate surrender of that portion of the Dulcigno territory which the Porte proposes to give up, reserving to ourselves and maintaining the right for Montenegro over the two villages named, about one of which there seems to be some misunderstanding, as I learn from you and from Dufferin.

I incline to adhere to our programme, but shall be glad to have the opinion of yours and other Governments on the Franco-Italian proposal.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 389.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1880.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to request that you will inform the Board of Admiralty that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome has telegraphed to-day to the effect that he had informed Admiral Seymour, who was about to leave Palermo, that, in accordance with the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, orders had been given to the Italian iron-clads destined for the naval demonstration off Dulcigno to rendezvous at Palermo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 390.

Mr. Blunt to Mr. Goschen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 18.)

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Salonica, August* 5, 1880.

I HAVE heard, from what I believe to be a good source, that the Albanian meeting referred to in the correspondence inclosed in my despatch No. 126, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, as having been called at Veglishta (Beehlista in Kiepert's map), broke up after deciding that a contribution of £ T. 8,000 in behalf of the Albanian League should be levied from the town and villages of Korytza (Gjortcha) in the following proportions: £ T. 2,500 from the town and £ T. 5,500 from the rural population; and I gather from my informant that most of this contribution will necessarily fall on the Christians, as they form nearly two-thirds of the population of that district.

It appears that several Christian delegates from the town and principal villages of Korytza went to the meeting at Beehlista, but unwillingly, I am assured, having been importuned and intimidated to attend by the local Beys.

Similar meetings, chiefly with the object, it is said, of raising funds for the League, have been held at Anasilitza, Phraseri, and other localities in the north of Epirus, where the Mahommedans are more dense and compact than in the south of that province, but I am unable to say with what results, as I have no agent or correspondent in that part of the country to watch and report upon passing events.

My informant also confirms the prevailing rumour, that the Albanian Yahia Bey, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, and who has been during the last month in Epirus, is using the weight and influence of his office in promoting the meetings I have referred to, and otherwise exciting the population to resist the cession of territory to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 391.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 247. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, August* 8, 1880.

I LEARN from most trustworthy sources that the Roman Catholics of North Albania have determined to offer no opposition to the cession of Dulcigno, which, they understand, has been recommended by the Powers. They, however, greatly fear that the Turkish Government will, at the last moment, attempt to effect the surrender of the territory ceded by the April arrangement, and they are therefore taking steps to be prepared against a surprise.

Very great pressure has been brought upon Prenk Bib Doda to assemble again his Mirdites, and promises have been given that they will be treated with greater liberality, one of the chief causes of their recent withdrawal having been that they had been fed for a period of nearly three months on a very scanty allowance of Indian corn bread, without even salt as a condiment.

The other Roman Catholic tribes have also been ordered to be ready to defend the Hotti and Gruda districts, but all have equally agreed that the Dulcigno question is beyond their interests.

I am also assured that the North Albanian Mussulmans as well have seen that it would be well to give way before the wishes of Europe in the matter of Dulcigno, and, if resistance is attempted in this direction, it will be entirely conducted by these half-hearted Mahommedans, and the Porte will be the real instigator of it.

Necessarily this resistance would be merely nominal, for it has become apparent that the other Mussulman districts of Albania are too much absorbed with their plans of establishing a kind of independent organization to be able to fulfil their former promises of assistance.

The news coming from North-east Albania depicts the districts there as becoming daily more and more dislocated by a want of government, and unfortunately, the Moslems being in a majority, the Christians appear to be in the greatest danger of some wild and unreasoning outbreak of fanaticism.

Perhaps, however, the fear concerning the Christians may be only based on the absence of a legally constituted authority, and the Mahommedan natives may have a sufficiently clear idea of what they are aiming at to control themselves from committing acts which would at once discredit the claim to govern themselves.

If the Porte persists in overlooking the real feeling of the North Albanians, and makes an effort to execute the April Protocol, I should not be surprised, after the first act of resistance by the Albanians against the Turkish troops, to find the former attempting to put themselves in direct communication with the Powers in order to carry out the Dulcigno cessions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 392.

Captain Swaine to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 1.)
Salonica, August 10, 1880.

My Lord,

BY direction of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, August 10, 1880.

Sir,

ON arrival here yesterday morning, Consul-General Blunt handed me your Excellency's telegram, and in reply sent to-day the following:

"Captain Swaine reports that no movement of troops nor dispatch of war material through Salonica has taken place since 30th June, consisting of artillery reported at the time.

"Government coal supply is being increased.

"He leaves to-morrow for Volo.

"BLUNT."

In addition to this I have little to add. I sent a duplicate of the above to Lord Granville.

Salonica, being an inconvenient port for disembarkation of troops intended for the Greek frontier, owing to the distance and the bad roads between it and Larissa, I have decided to leave for Volo to-morrow, where more activity may be visible.

Vice-Consul Longworth will meet me there.

From all I learn, it would appear that the troops in this district and in Thessaly are very badly fed. But still, the general impression remains, that in spite of bad treatment from their own Government, if again called upon, they would be ready to answer the Sultan's call in the hour of desperation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

No. 393.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 743.)
Paris, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 385 repeated to me Mr. Macdonell's telegram No. 103 of yesterday, in which he states that the French Chargé d'Affaires at Rome had been instructed to obtain, and had obtained, the concurrence of the Italian Government to a proposal from the Porte to the following effect:—

"The Porte to execute the Dulcigno arrangement, less the cession of Gruda and Dinosi. For the execution of this proposal a further delay of a few weeks is demanded."

Further, that M. de Freycinet had suggested the acceptance of this proposal with a view of claiming Dinosi and Gruda when the surrender of the Dulcigno territory had been effected.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 389 asked me whether instructions in the above sense had been sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Rome.

I found Baron de Courcel at the Foreign Office this morning. He told me that just before M. de Freycinet's departure his Excellency had caused a telegram to be sent to the French Embassies (mentioning particularly those at Rome and in London), which was by way of obtaining the opinion of the other Governments, and was to the following effect:—

"Would it be wise to give a positive refusal to the Turkish proposal, because the Powers might find themselves in a false position if the demonstration off Dulcigno were

to take place when the Turks had virtually abandoned that place? Would it not be wiser, with the view of securing Dulcigno to Montenegro, to accept that proposal in all other respects, except as regards the exclusion of Dinosi and Gruda from the contemplated cession by the Turks, and then make the cession or not of those two places a matter of further negotiation?"

M. de Courcel added that nothing was said as to the further delay of a few weeks proposed by the Porte, and he told me that, from a report received from M. Challemel-Lacour, that Ambassador must have seen your Lordship in the course of yesterday, and have communicated to you the terms of M. de Freycinet's telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 394.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 746.)
Paris, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1083 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from M. de Freycinet, in which his Excellency acknowledges the receipt of your Lordship's letter recording the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to various acts of delimitation elaborated by Commissions under the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 394.

M. de Freycinet to Mr. Adams.

Paris, le 14 Août, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me transmettre, le 12 de ce mois, une note émanant du Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de la Reine et constatant la sanction donnée par le Gouvernement Britannique aux divers actes de délimitation qui ont été élaborés par les Commissions nommées à cet effet en vertu des stipulations du Traité de Berlin. Je m'empresse de vous remercier de cette communication.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 395.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

Ce 18 Août, 1880.

Mon cher Comte,

JE reçois ce matin un télégramme de St. Pétersbourg, par lequel M. de Giers m'annonce qu'il a été informé par Novicow de la réponse de la Porte à la note collective sur l'affaire Monténégrine.

M. de Giers ajoute que le Cabinet Impérial est d'avis "qu'il faudrait s'en tenir à la sommation, et que, si la Porte voulait sérieusement se concilier les bonnes dispositions des Puissances, elle devrait procéder immédiatement à la remise de Dulcigno, comme gage de sa bonne volonté à exécuter le reste."

Comme je suis chargé de faire connaître votre opinion là-dessus, je me propose de passer chez vous vers 3 heures au Foreign Office.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) LOBANOW.

No. 396.

Baron Kosjek's Report of Conversation with Abédine Pasha respecting Property of Mussulmans in Ceded Districts.—(Communicated by M. de Hengelmüller, August 18.)

DANS une conversation que j'ai eue ces jours-ci avec Abédine Pacha, j'ai exposé à mon interlocuteur les bonnes dispositions du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal en faveur des Musulmans propriétaires d'immeubles dans les districts à céder à la Grèce pour les protéger contre toute revendication de propriété qui pourrait être élevée contre eux sous la domination Hellénique.

Tout en me remerciant de la sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal à l'égard des propriétaires fonciers en question, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'exprima le désir que l'action des Puissances ne se bornât pas seulement à préserver les propriétaires comme tels de toute atteinte directe de la part du Gouvernement Hellénique mais qu'il soit établi des garanties réelles pour empêcher ce dernier d'introduire par la voie législative des dispositions de nature à dépouiller les propriétaires des revenus et d'autres avantages, dont ils jouissent actuellement en vertu des contrats passés avec leurs fermiers.

Mr. Goschen, auquel j'ai communiqué les détails de mon entretien, me répondit, qu'à son avis il y aurait bien des difficultés de garantir les propriétés en question dans la mesure indiqué par Abédine Pacha.

Veuillez, &c.

Constantinople, le 27 Juillet, 1880.

No. 397.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 17, 1880.*

FRENCH Ambassador found Minister for Foreign Affairs in high spirits at news received from Paris that the French Government and one other Government would accept the Dulcigno plan, excluding Dinosi. The second Government is probably the Italian. Italian Ambassador informs me that his Government have been asked by Her Majesty's Government to have two ships ready for the 24th.

I have received no telegram yet from your Lordship as to the view taken by Her Majesty's Government as to last Turkish proposal, nor as to intention with regard to naval demonstration.

The Turks believe it is given up for the present.

We have no written answer yet from Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 398.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 9 A.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 17, 1880.*

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 67 :—

"With reference to your telegram of 15th, the only part of Gruda which would have to be surrendered would be Dinosi, the Dulcigno arrangement requiring no other advance of the present Montenegrin posts in that direction.

"(Sent to Lord Granville.)"

No. 399.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 17, 1880, 9 P.M.*

IZZET PASHA, the Governor-General, was recalled yesterday, and left this morning for Constantinople. Brigadier-General Osman Pasha will act until a new Vali arrives.

The troops from Candia have already arrived.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 400.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 9 A.M.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 18, 1880, 7·40 A.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 400.

Prince Hohenlohe writes to me that German Government concur in rejoinder your Lordship proposes to address to the Porte respecting Greece.

No. 401.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 18, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 421.

German Government have no preference, and are willing to accept the Franco-Italian proposal, with or without the Austrian modification, as soon as Her Majesty's Government and Russia have agreed to either.

No. 402.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 1 P.M.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 18, 1880, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 500, the Russian Government is willing that the rejoinder to the answer of the Porte on the Greek question should be drafted by Her Majesty's Government, in the terms suggested by your Lordship, which, in M. de Giers' opinion, are quite suitable to the case.

No. 403.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 4 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 18, 1880, 1·45 P.M.*

THE Commission expected to adjourn on Monday; some formal matters will keep me here till the Friday following, the 28th. Unless required at home immediately, I am anxious to go to Homburg on my way for three weeks, being advised to do so.

No. 404.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 10 P.M.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 18, 1880, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 103, Count Maffei tells me that he assented to Turkish proposal presented by France if the other Powers concurred. Italian Government has since heard of and approved conditions suggested by Austria.

No. 405.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 18, 1880, 5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 474.

M. Kallay says that what he said to the French Chargé d'Affaires has been completely misunderstood, as he never expressed an opinion favourable to the French proposal. He had on the contrary distinctly stated he was indifferent whether the note of the 3rd

should be maintained or the last proposal of the Porte adopted; that the Austrian Government only desired that the frontier question should be speedily and definitely settled. He did not consider that this would be done by the French proposal, which would leave the question of the final fate of Dinosi open, and he had therefore said that if the Powers, instead of adhering to their last demands, determined to accept the Turkish offer, they ought at the same time to renounce the annexation of Dinosi to Montenegro, and thus close the question.

He was willing to go with the other Powers in whichever decision they think best, but he declines to state which of the two he would prefer.

No. 406.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18, 10·50 P.M.)

(No 132. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 18, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, I pressed M. Kallay again and again to give some opinion about acceptation or rejection of the Turkish offer, but he resolutely refused to give any, saying that Austria would take no initiative, but would act with the other Powers. I represented that Montenegro frontier question had been treated as one in which Austria was principally interested, and she more than any other Power seemed called upon to say what course she thought should be adopted; that if every Government was to shut itself up in the same reserve, no progress could be made.

I made no impression on him, and he only repeated, "We will adhere to whatever the others desire about adhering to the note or accepting the Turkish proposal, but we will take no initiative."

It was in vain that I represented that by expressing an opinion he would be taking no initiative.

No. 407.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 514.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I SAW the German Chargé d'Affaires this morning, and explained to him the present state of affairs in regard to the Montenegrin Frontier question. I said that the Porte were apparently ready to cede the Dulcigno district, but objected to the surrender of Dinosi and Gruda, and required an extension of the term in which the cession should be accomplished; that the French and Italian Governments proposed that the Powers should accept this arrangement, requiring the Porte, however, to execute it at once, and maintaining the right of the Prince of Montenegro to claim at a future time the surrender of the two excluded villages.

The Austrian Government were stated to be ready to concur in this suggestion, but preferred that the cession of Dinosi and Gruda should be altogether abandoned.

I told Baron von der Brincken that there was a risk of this change of purpose giving encouragement to the Porte to adopt in other questions a policy of evasion and delay, but that Her Majesty's Government would probably be prepared to consider the alterations if approved by the other Powers, and were particularly desirous to have the opinion of the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 408.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 386.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 176 of the 24th ultimo, reporting that the Bulgarian Exarch had sought your assistance to secure the adoption by the Eastern Roumelian Commission of a clause in the Organic Statute confirming his right to

appoint Bishops over the Bulgarian community in Macedonia, and I have to express my approval of the cautious attitude which your Excellency assumed in replying to his Beatitude.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 409.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 104.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 118 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing copy of M. Zancoff's Circular on the subject of the treatment of Mussulmans in Bulgaria, and I approve your having called his attention to the delay in carrying out the Decree in regard to Turkish property in Sophia, as well as to the manner in which it had been assessed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 410.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 105.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 117 of the 23rd ultimo, I have to state that I approve the language which you held to M. Zancoff in regard to the question of the right of Roumania to Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 411.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 339.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I APPROVE the language which your Excellency held to M. de Giers as to the advice given by the Russian Government to the Bulgarians not to attempt a revolution in Eastern Roumelia, as reported in your despatch No. 311 of the 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 412.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 400.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called on me this afternoon, and I discussed with him the recent proposals of the French and Italian Governments and the modification suggested by Austria with regard to the Montenegrin frontier.

I said that I could give him no official answer in the absence of Mr. Gladstone, but that there would have been an advantage in adhering to the original proposal of the Powers. But if all the other Governments are disposed to accept the Turkish counter-proposition, we thought it might be done, provided always that the arrangements for the cession were made perfectly clear and immediately executed. I also thought it would be very desirable that whatever arrangement is made should have a definitive character, and not leave points open for further discussion and dispute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 413.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 453.)
Foreign Office, August 18, 1880.

Sir,

AT an interview which I had with General Menabrea on the 12th instant, his Excellency informed me that Count Corti had reported by telegraph to his Government the new proposal respecting Dulcigno, which is identic with that which is already in the possession of Her Majesty's Government.

I understood from General Menabrea that the Italian Government were very averse from entertaining this proposal, and especially objected to the delay which was included in the projected arrangement.

I told General Menabrea that I concurred in this view, but that I had not yet sent any instructions on the subject to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 415.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 748.)
Paris, August 18, 1880.

My Lord,

ADMIRAL JAURÉGUIBERRY, the Minister of Marine, who, as I have had the honour to report to your Lordship, is acting for M. de Freycinet during the absence of the latter, received the Corps Diplomatique this afternoon at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

On my speaking to the Admiral of the projected naval demonstration, he said that he was in some embarrassment, as he was afraid that it would be impossible for any French ships of war to reach Palermo before the beginning of next month. He said that the squadron which had been at Cherbourg for the Presidential visit had gone off on a cruize, and would only be at Brest on the 20th, and that the vessels to be detached for this particular service would have to coal there, proceed thence to Toulon, and coal again at that port before going on to Palermo.

I said that I was disappointed at hearing this; that the collective note respecting the Montenegrin frontier question was presented to the Porte on the 3rd instant, and the three weeks expired on the 24th. Would it not be possible to shorten the time he had mentioned?

His Excellency said that he had only learnt on Saturday last, the 14th, from M. de Freycinet (by my notes of that day) that the naval demonstration was intended to take place so soon, and that he had no ship in the Mediterranean which he could send on this service.

I then begged Admiral Jauréguiberry to have the goodness to cause a reply to be given to my communications on this subject as soon as he was able, and his Excellency promised to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 416.

Pro-memoria communicated by M. de Hengelmüller, August 19, 1880.

THE cross fire of questions between Vienna and London took place because Sir Henry Elliot has only spoken yesterday to the Imperial and Royal Government about the newest Turkish proposition. The Vienna Cabinet know nothing of a French or Franco-Italian proposition; in consequence they could not suggest any modification. The French Chargé d'Affaires in Vienna has only informed us that his Government consider the last Turkish proposition with regard to Dulcigno as acceptable, the consent of the other Powers reserved, and that in this case the settlement of the question of Dinoschi and Gruda could be reserved for future negotiations. The Imperial and Royal Government have replied to the French Chargé d'Affaires that they lay the main importance on a quick and final settlement of the Montenegrin question, and that they think that such was the interest of the other Powers too. The Austro-Hungarian Government stick, therefore, to

the collective note, and they are now as hitherto prepared to support the original Dulcigno project with all the means the Powers have conjointly agreed upon. But if the other Powers should prefer the new Turkish proposition the Austrian Government will raise no objection against it, though without taking any initiative; but they deem it desirable that the fate of Dinoschi and Gruda should be definitively settled in one way or the other in order to prevent all occasion for further difficulties.

This is our standpoint in this question, and we hope that Lord Granville will fully agree with it, as the Cabinet of St. James' pursue the same aim as we do, viz., the quick and final settlement of the Montenegrin question.

My Government wish me to inform Lord Granville accordingly.

Belgrave Square, August 19, 1880.

No. 417.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Sophia, August 18, 1880, 3·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 4, my Russian colleague has read to me, confidentially, the instructions which he has received from his Government with regard to necessity of maintaining European concert and of discouraging any revolutionary movement on the part of Bulgaria. M. Coumany informs me that he has told M. Zancoff that Bulgaria must not count upon assistance from Russia in any scheme of adventure, and has strongly pressed upon him the necessity of the Principality remaining perfectly quiet.

No. 418.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 19.)

(No. ? .)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, August 19, 1880.

PORTE has replied to the collective note of the 3rd instant respecting Montenegrin frontier. After usual preamble, the note proceeds thus:—

"Porte, wishing to give a manifest proof of its deference to the wish of the Powers, and of its desire to arrive at a prompt and satisfactory solution of this question, consents, in principle, to the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro. On the side of Podgoritza, Lake of Scutari, however, the line of demarcation shall be the one that shall result from the application on the spot itself of the points indicated in the Treaty of Berlin. Porte is ready to conclude a Convention to this effect.

"In imposing on itself the sacrifice of so important a position as Dulcigno, the chief town of a fertile district, the only object the Imperial Government has in view is to avoid any fresh conflict and all chance of complications. In order that this cession may take place without troubles or difficulty, a prolongation by several weeks of the really insufficient term of twenty-one days will, of course, be necessary.

"Abédino Pasha declares, at the same time, that the Porte, in consenting to the cession of Dulcigno, is penetrated with the absolute duty of, above all things, safeguarding its sovereign rights, and of thus averting any project for foreign intervention. Should the Signatory Powers therefore, contrary to all expectation, not accept the above proposal, and should they consider it their duty to adopt certain measures tending to assist Montenegro in occupying the town of Dulcigno by force, it would be quite impossible for the Imperial Government to join, in any way whatever, in these measures, which would be taken without its consent."

No. 419.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 629.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880, 4·20 P.M.

IN discussing yesterday with Russian Ambassador the Franco-Italian proposal respecting Montenegro, and the Austrian modification of it, I said that I could give no official answer without consulting my colleagues, but that my own opinion was that while

there would have been an advantage in adhering to the original programme, yet if the other Governments were disposed to accept the Turkish counter-proposal, I thought it might be done, provided that the arrangements for the cession were made perfectly clear, and were immediately executed. I thought also that whatever arrangement was made should have a definitive character, and should not leave points open for further discussion and dispute.

No. 420.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 415.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880, 8·15 P.M.

ALL the Powers having now agreed to the rejoinder to the Porte respecting the Greek frontier suggested in my Circular telegram of the 13th August, I send the draft of a note to the Porte, in the sense proposed:—

"The Undersigned, &c., have the honour, by order of their respective Governments, to forward to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte the following note:

"'The Governments of, &c., have had under their consideration the reply which the Sublime Porte returned on the 27th ultimo to the collective note of the 15th ultimo, in which they communicated the Award of the Conference of Berlin in regard to the rectification of the Greek frontier.

"'After stating its objection to the Award, the Sublime Porte requests the Mediating Powers to authorize their Representatives to enter into negotiations with the Sublime Porte with the view of coming to an understanding as to the definitive settlement of the frontier-line, and the secondary points and details connected with it.

"'Considering that the decision come to at the Conference at Berlin was arrived at after due deliberation, and after a consideration of the lines of frontier respectively put forward for adoption by the Turkish and Greek Governments, the Mediating Powers cannot consent to reopen the discussion, but, having approved the Award of the Conference, must abide by it, and again recommend it to the Sublime Porte as being in conformity with the Treaty and Protocol of Berlin.

"'The Governments of, &c., cannot, therefore, consent to authorize their Ambassadors to enter into any discussion on the subject of the frontier-line, though they are at liberty to entertain any proposals which the Sublime Porte may have to make as to the manner in which the evacuation of the territory by the Turkish authorities, and its surrender to Greece, should best be conducted.'"

No. 421.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 432.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 415 to Mr. Goschen, ask the Government to which you are accredited if they will authorize their Representative at Constantinople to sign the note of which a draft has been telegraphed to Mr. Goschen.

No. 422.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 387.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 200 of the 3rd instant, inclosing a preliminary Report by Colonel Wilson, containing information respecting the condition of certain refugees from Batak, and I approve your having communicated it to the Turkish Government with a view to further inquiries being made as to their fate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 484), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 533), Mr. Adams (No. 401), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 474).

No. 423.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 389.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880.

YOUR Excellency will have received from Mr. Blunt a Report of the 28th ultimo, by Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, of the steps which he took to induce the Government of Larissa to make provision for the safety of the town in the event of any disturbance occurring in connection with the proposed cession of territory to Greece; and I have to suggest to your Excellency that Mr. Longworth's proceedings in this matter should be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 424.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 390.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880.

I COMMUNICATED to the Marquis of Hartington the steps taken by your Excellency for the suppression of the Peik-ul-Islam newspaper, and I have been requested by his Lordship to convey his cordial acknowledgments to your Excellency for your prompt action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 425.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 391.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880.

MY attention has been called to Acting Consul-General Dickson's despatch No. 52, of the 29th ultimo, to your Excellency, reporting that the visit to Caiffa of Midhat Pasha's Secretary and the Inspector of Justice had resulted either in a complete annulment or a favourable revision of the sentences passed on those who had been convicted of taking part in the recent disturbances.

I have to request your Excellency, should you think it advisable at the present time, to bring to the notice of the Turkish Government this interference with the course of justice on the part of its officials, and the effect which it appears to have produced upon the local authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 426.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 393.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 19, 1880.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day, and expressed to me, on behalf of his Government, the hope that the Powers would allow the negotiations with regard to the Greek frontier question to be continued at Constantinople.

I told Musurus Bey that his Government would, in all probability, receive an answer very shortly to their communication to the Powers on this question, but that I did not anticipate that it would be favourable to the wish he had just mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 427.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 394.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's Confidential despatch No. 226 of the 9th instant, reporting the transfer of Midhat Pasha to Aidin and the recall of Réouf Pasha from Adrianople.

Your Excellency will take an opportunity of expressing to the Turkish Government the regret with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt this new proof of the disinclination of the Porte to employ men such as Réouf Pasha, whose integrity and ability inspire the Representatives of the European Powers with confidence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 428.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 395.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I approve the language which you held to the Sultan on the occasion of your audience on the 27th ultimo, as reported in your despatch No. 203 of the 3rd instant, when you assured His Majesty of the unanimity of the Powers on the Greek and Montenegrin questions, and urged the necessity of dealing leniently in regard to the collection of taxes with the famine-stricken districts of Asia Minor.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 429.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 396.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 214 of the 6th instant, reporting the steps taken by yourself and your colleagues to communicate to the Porte the details of the new Montenegrin frontier, as proposed in the collective note, and I approve your Excellency's proceedings in this matter.

I have already instructed your Excellency by telegraph as to the necessity to which you refer of agreeing with the Porte upon the terms on which the cession is to be carried out.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 430.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 408.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

THE Powers having agreed to the terms of the rejoinder to the Porte's reply to the collective note on the Greek frontier question, suggested in my Circular despatch of the 13th instant, I now transmit to you the accompanying draft of a collective note to the Porte, to which the assent of the Powers has been asked by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 431.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1149. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 723, Very Confidential, of the 13th instant, recording what had passed at an interview which you have had with M. de Freycinet, and at which his Excellency expressed the determination of the French Government to act in concert with the Powers in the present crisis of the Eastern question, and especially to act in all matters cordially and intimately with Her Majesty's Government.

I have to express to you my approval of the language which you held to M. de Freycinet on this occasion, and to request that you will express to his Excellency the gratification of Her Majesty's Government at his assurances, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 432.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1150.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 727 of the 13th instant, and I request that you will express to M. de Freycinet the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government both at his Excellency's assurances of the determination of France to persist in the attitude which they have assumed in regard to Eastern affairs and to act in concert with the other European Powers; and at the steps taken by his Excellency to dispel any idea that might be entertained by the Porte that dissension amongst the Powers at the present crisis was a probable contingency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 433.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1151.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 724 of the 13th instant, inclosing a copy of a note from M. de Freycinet, expressing the entire concurrence of the French Government in the terms of the rejoinder which Her Majesty's Government propose should be returned to the Porte's reply on the Greek frontier question; and you will be good enough to express to M. de Freycinet the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the identity of the views of the two countries in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 434.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1152.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 748 of the 18th instant, reporting what had passed between yourself and Admiral Jaureguiberry, on the occasion of his reception of the Corps Diplomatique, with reference to the intended naval demonstration off Dulcigno, and the probability that the French ships of war would be unable to rendezvous at Palermo before the beginning of next month; and I approve the language which you held to the French Admiral on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 435.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 1159.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE already communicated to you the draft of a note which I have telegraphed to Mr. Goschen containing the proposed rejoinder of the Powers to the reply of the Porte on the Greek frontier question, which has been drawn up in the terms agreed to by those Powers.

I have to request that you will ask the Government to which you are accredited whether they will authorize their Representative at Constantinople to sign this note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 436.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 47.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatches Nos. 58 and 69 of the 18th and 29th ultimo, relative to the rights of the Bulgarian Exarchate under the new Statute. Your Lordship will have no doubt learnt from Mr. Goschen the language which his Excellency held to the Exarch on this matter, which appears to have been virtually settled by the Commission, but I inclose a memorandum on the question by Sir H. Layard, which may be of assistance to you in the event of its being further discussed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 437.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 107.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE your having made representations to M. Zancoff, as reported in your despatch No. 116 of the 21st ultimo, on the subject of the prevailing insecurity of life and property in the town of Rustchuk described by Mr. Dalziel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 438.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 454.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and said that his Government had received a communication from the French Representative at Rome, suggesting that it would be best to close with the offer of the Porte in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, reserving the right of Montenegro to the two villages which the Turkish Government declared themselves unable to surrender. M. de Ressmann said that his Government were anxious to know what view we took of this suggestion. They were not positively informed of the intentions of the Austrian Government, but they believed that there was a great desire at Vienna to see the matter speedily settled.

I told M. de Ressmann that I thought he must have forgotten a portion of the communication he was instructed to make, for that I was informed that the Italian Government had not only received this communication from the French Government, but had expressed their concurrence on it.

M. de Ressmann admitted that this was so, but said that his Government were desirous of learning our views and of acting in concert with England. I then said that I myself regretted that the Powers should not abide by the terms of the collective note, not because

* Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Macdonell, the Earl of Dufferin, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

I attached any great importance to the two villages in question, but because every change of front encouraged the Turkish Government to hope for success in evading the demands of the Powers by a series of delays and counter-proposals. Some time ago General Menabrea had asked me whether I believed that the Porte would eventually yield to the decisions of the Powers, and I had expressed my opinion that such would be the case if firmness and unanimity could be maintained, but that this latter condition was essential to success. I had therefore told his Excellency that I regretted to find that the Porte were accurately informed, through their Minister at Rome, of any small divergence of opinion that occurred among the Powers in regard to the course of procedure. I had heard with still greater regret that language had been held in some quarters at Constantinople of a nature to encourage the Porte to hope for more serious dissensions.

For the same reason, I continued, it seemed to me that it would have been better to have kept steadfastly in the present instance to the programme embodied in the collective note. But if the other Governments concerned were disposed to accept the Turkish counter-proposal, I thought it might be done, provided the details of the surrender were made quite clear, and it was carried into execution at once. I thought also that whatever arrangement was made should be of a definitive character, and not leave points open to form the subject of future discussion and dispute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 439.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 546.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me the inclosed memorandum on the views of his Government with regard to the present phase of the Montenegrin Frontier question.

I said that I gather from it that the Austro-Hungarian Government were indifferent whether the arrangement embodied in the collective note of the Ambassador or the Turkish counter-proposal were adopted, provided either were executed without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 440.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 554.)
Foreign Office, August 19, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day. He was still awaiting instructions from his Government in reply to the report which he had sent to Vienna of our yesterday's conversation in regard to the Montenegrin Frontier question.

I held language to him similar to that which I had already used to the Russian Ambassador, as stated in the despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, of which a copy is herewith inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 441.

Prince Lobanow to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

Mon cher Comte, *Ce* $\frac{8}{20}$ *Août*, 1880.

JE m'empresse de vous informer que l'Empereur a donné son approbation au projet de note collective sur l'affaire Grecque, que vous avez fait communiquer au Cabinet Impérial.

M. de Giers me l'annonce par un télégramme daté d'hier, $\frac{7}{19}$ Août.

Votre bien dévoué,
(Signé) LOBANOW.

No. 442.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 20.)

Constantinople, le 18 Août, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

EN réponse à la dernière communication des Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin relative à la question Monténégrine, je leur ai adressé aujourd'hui la note suivante :

"Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, de Russie, d'Angleterre, d'Italie, et de France, et le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie ont bien voulu lui écrire en date du 3 Août en réponse à celle qu'il leur avait adressée le 15 Juillet dernier relativement à la question Monténégrine.

"La Sublime Porte, voulant donner une preuve manifeste de sa déférence au vœu des Puissances et de son désir d'arriver à une solution prompte et satisfaisante de cette question, consent en principe à la cession de Dulcigno au Gouvernement du Monténégro. Toutefois, du côté de Podgoritza . . . . . Lac de Scutari, la ligne de démarcation sera celle qui résultera de l'application sur le terrain des points indiqués dans le Traité de Berlin. La Sublime Porte est prête à conclure une Convention à cet effet.

"En s'imposant le sacrifice d'une position aussi importante que Dulcigno, chef-lieu d'un pays fertile, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a eu vue que d'écarter tout nouveau conflit et toute éventualité de complication.

"Pour que cette cession puisse avoir lieu sans secousse ni difficulté il faut naturellement une prolongation de quelques semaines du délai réellement insuffisant de vingt et un jours.

"Le Soussigné déclare en même temps que la Sublime Porte, en adjugeant l'abandon de Dulcigno, est pénétrée du devoir absolu de sauvegarder avant tout ses droits de souveraineté et d'écarter de la sorte tout projet d'intervention étrangère.

"Si donc les Puissances Signataires, contre toute attente, n'acceptaient pas la proposition qui précède et croyaient devoir adopter certaines mesures tendantes à aider le Monténégro à occuper de force la ville de Dulcigno, le Gouvernement Impérial se verrait dans l'impossibilité de s'associer sous quelque forme que ce fût à ces mesures, qui seraient prises en dehors de son consentement.

"Le Soussigné, &c."

Je vous prie de faire ressortir aux yeux de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères l'esprit éminemment conciliant qui a dicté notre réponse. En adhérant à la cession de Dulcigno, la Sublime Porte n'a entendu que donner une nouvelle preuve de sa déférence aux conseils de l'Europe et écarter ainsi toute cause pouvant amener des mesures extrêmes.

No. 443.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

Scutari, August 19, 1880, 7 P.M.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.)

RIZA PASHA has arrived in Scutari, and the troops already landed are being [posted] between this and the coast.

Osman Pasha has been confirmed as Governor of the vilayet.

The inhabitants of Dulcigno have informed the Scutari Committee that they will not resist Montenegro unless they are supported by 5,000 men. The Committee could only promise 600.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 444.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20, 2·30 P.M.)

Paris, August 20, 1880, 1·15 P.M.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 401.

French Government will authorize their Representative at Constantinople to sign the note of which a draft has been telegraphed to Mr. Goschen.

No. 445.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, August 20, 1880, 4 P.M.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.)

WHAT period do you think ought to suffice to the Turks to surrender the districts included in the Dulcigno arrangement, with the exception of Dinosi?

No. 446.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20, 6 P.M.)

Therapia, August 20, 1880, 3·35 P.M.

(No. 181.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your despatch No. 378, I have not yet had instructions to mention self-denying Protocol to Porte, nor have I been authorized even to hint at the declaration having for its object to prevent further concession being demanded of the Porte. Am I to understand these advantages to Porte, resulting from compliance, are now to be communicated to Porte? I gather so from the tenour of the despatch.

No. 447.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

Foreign Office, August 20, 1880, 11 P.M.

(No. 418.)
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR No. 181.

Yes, if your colleagues agree.

No. 448.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, August 20, 1880.

(No. 90.)

Sir,

THE Turkish Government having represented that a longer time than that named by the Powers is necessary to enable them to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement, I have instructed you, by telegraph, to inform me what period would, in your opinion, be sufficient for them to surrender the districts in question exclusive of Dinosi.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 449.

Vice-Consul Gardner to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

Poti, July 30, 1880.

(No. 1. Confidential.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 10th June, requesting me to obtain further information respecting the batteries, circular railway, and other works in progress at Batoum.

The two large batteries erected by the Turks during the late war remain intact; no guns have yet been placed therein, but sentries are posted, and they are kept in good order.

The semi-circular railway has been laid out and ballasted ready for sleepers and rails; at the western end a large and substantial wooden jetty has been erected, each pile having a covering of zinc to protect it from worms.

The British steam-ship "Zoe," of and from London, lay alongside discharging the material for a powerful floating steam crane, capable of lifting guns 40 tons, which guns, I was informed, are now ready at Sebastopol, waiting the erection of this crane, and one similar discharged by the "Zoe" at Sebastopol.

From the jetty the railway runs due south, close under the Turkish battery at the

mouth of the harbour, passes round the town and terminates at the second large battery, situated at the east side or bottom of the harbour.

I was shown the sites of proposed batteries and fortifications upon the tops and sides of the high lands to the east and south-east of the town, and commanding the harbour; the land has been marked out, but the work has not been commenced.

There is a project for connecting the two small lakes to the south of the town with the harbour by a canal, and for draining the swamps lying between the town and the foot of the high land; the close proximity of this low-lying undrained land to the town has brought its certain results in fever and ague during the summer months, and made the place rather unhealthy during that season.

In the town itself some little improvement has been made, one or two new streets opened out, and about forty new houses erected of soft brick and timber mixed. Bricks and tiles of superior quality are imported by steamer from Marseille.

The population of Batoum is estimated at 8,000; this includes three battalions, 2,500 regular troops, and three sotnias, 300 Cossacks.

There appears to be more life and movement in the streets than I have hitherto observed, and the shops and magazines seem well stored with English and French goods. Batoum being a semi-free port attracts numbers of small merchants and shopkeepers from the Caucasus, who there purchase their supplies, and besides doing a little smuggling they can always make better terms with the custom-house there than at Poti.

Nearly all the Laz have emigrated from the neighbourhood of Batoum; the Turkish Government sends a steamer weekly to Batoum and takes these emigrants (Mukhadzie) with all their live stock gratis to Trebizond, Samsoun, Amastra, and Constantinople.

This exodus has proved a misfortune to the inhabitants of Batoum, as there is no provision left in the surrounding country; the ground is not tilled; neither maize or wheat, vegetables or fruit are to be had, and every requisite has to be imported except fish, which is plentiful. Fruit and vegetables come from Trebizond; wheat and flour from Odessa; and kertch, maize, hay, provender, pigs, poultry, and timber for building from Poti; and as everything edible finds a ready sale in Batoum at high prices, the inhabitants of this place are feeling the effects in scarce and excessively dear provision.

I found one English, one French, one Turk, and four Russian steamers, with a few collier brigs in harbour.

When the proposed quay is completed, I estimate that about 100 vessels can be safely moored stern on, with room for some fifteen or twenty at anchor. The depth of water on the south side of the harbour is thirty fathoms, and to obviate the necessity of letting go an anchor on the arrival of a steamer, the Russian Steam Navigation Company have laid down numerous buoys.

Although the harbour appears open and exposed the sea is generally calm within, the prevailing winds blowing along the coast, and I have been told that the work of discharging and loading vessels is not interrupted more than four or five days in the year.

I shall not fail to acquaint your Lordship with any change or movement at Batoum, or the commencement of the construction of the projected fortresses outside the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 450.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 752. Confidential.)
Paris, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 728, Very Confidential, of the 13th instant, recording what had passed at my interview with M. de Freycinet on that day, when his Excellency expressed the determination of the French Government to act in concert with the Powers in the present crisis of the Eastern question, and especially to act in all matters cordially and intimately with Her Majesty's Government, I have this morning, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1149, Confidential, of yesterday, expressed confidentially to Baron de Courcel, in the absence of M. de Freycinet, the gratification of Her Majesty's Government at these assurances on the part of his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 451.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 753.)
Paris, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1150 of yesterday, I have this morning expressed to Baron de Courcel, in the absence of M. de Freycinet, the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, both at his Excellency's assurances, as reported by me in my despatch No. 727 of the 13th instant, of the determination of the French Government to persist in the attitude which they have assumed in regard to Eastern affairs, and to act in concert with the other European Powers; and also, as reported by me in the same despatch, at the steps taken by his Excellency to dispel any idea that might be entertained by the Porte that dissension amongst the Powers at the present crisis was a probable contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 452.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 754.)
Paris, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1151 of yesterday, I have this morning expressed to Baron de Courcel, in the absence of M. de Freycinet, the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the identity of the views of England and France, as evinced in the entire concurrence of the French Government in the terms of the rejoinder which Her Majesty's Government propose should be returned to the Porte's reply on the Greek Frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 453.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 756.)
Paris, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I INFORMED Baron de Courcel this morning that all the Powers had now agreed to the rejoinder to the Porte respecting the Greek Frontier question, which had been suggested by Her Majesty's Government, and, in order to carry out the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 405 of yesterday evening, I then communicated to him the draft note which you had sent by telegraph to Mr. Goschen, and the terms of which are set forth in your telegram No. 405 of yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I said that I was instructed to ask the French Government if they would authorize the French Representative at Constantinople to sign the note, the draft of which I had just communicated to him.

M. de Courcel answered that the necessary authorization would be sent to M. Tissot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 454.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 757.)
Paris, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation this morning, I communicated to Baron de Courcel the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 259 of yesterday to Lord Dufferin relating to your conversation with Prince Labanoff, in which your Lordship said that your personal opinion was, that whilst there would have been an advantage in adhering to the original programme in the Montenegrin Frontier question, still, if the other Governments were inclined to accept the Turkish counter-proposal, you thought it might be acceded to, provided that the arrangement for the cession were made perfectly clear, and were put into execution at once, and that your Lordship also thought that whatever arrangements might be made should have a definitive character, and should not leave any points open, so as to admit of further discussion and dispute.

M. de Courcel said that the French Government agreed entirely with these conditions, and he expressed the hope that it might be found possible to bring the question in this manner to a speedy solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 455.

Memorandum by Captain Sale.—(Received August 21.)

THE telegram of the 13th August, 1880, from Mr. Goschen, indicates two conditions demanded by Abédine Pasha in modification of the Dulcigno arrangement.

These two conditions are: (1) That Dinoš and Gruda should be left to Turkey; (2) that more time for the execution of the arrangement should be allowed.

The greater portion of the Gruda district was, under the Dulcigno arrangement, to be left to Turkey, but the town of Dinoš was to be handed over to Montenegro.

The *town* of Dinoš itself is of no great importance, but if Abédine Pasha, in his verbal communication, meant the *district* of Dinoš, this would advance the proposed frontier so close to Podgorica that the Montenegrins would probably raise objections.

But the wording of the written answer to the collective note, as indicated in Mr. Goschen's telegram of 19th August, is widely different from that of the verbal answer.

Under the terms of the written communication, the Turks will be at liberty to reopen the question discussed last year. They will have a pretext for claiming almost the whole of the Podgorica Plain, and will be entitled to receive back from the Montenegrins the district of Kuči-Kraina.

The boundary line on the Podgorica Plain, as claimed by the Turks, is clearly shown in the maps which I prepared last year. This line was strenuously supported by Riza Pasha, the same officer who now returns to Scutari, and there can be little doubt but that he will again advance the same claim if he has the chance of doing so—a chance which will be given him if the wording of Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin be taken as a guide for demarcating this part of the frontier.

The Kuči-Kraina is now occupied by the Montenegrins, and I am sure that they would be very reluctant to hand it back to Turkey.

The village of Dinoš might be fairly defined as consisting of all the houses and buildings situated within a distance of 1 kilom. from the mosque—a building about which there can be no doubt or question.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*

August 20, 1880.

No. 456.

Pro-memorid communicated by M. Hengelmüller, August 21.

OUR Consul-General in Scutari telegraphs as follows:—

"Hadgi Osman Pasha, according to a telegram from the Minister President, has been appointed Governor of Scutari. He is not the former Commander of Tusi but of Podgoritza, to the surrender of which he has essentially contributed.

"Riza Pasha is expected here to-night. Four battalions with Liva Ismet Pasha have arrived in Medua; two further battalions will arrive to-morrow. The Committee of the League contemplates resistance against the cession of Dulcigno, but Osman Pasha strongly opposes them."

Baron Rodich telegraphs from Zara:—

"Riza Pasha landed at Medua, where Turkish frigate is also disembarking 2,000 men of troops armed with Martini rifles."

Belgrave Square, August 21, 1880.

No. 457.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, August 21, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador at Vienna has asked the Imperial and Royal Government whether they agree therewith that the reply of the Powers to the Porte's answer to the collective note of the 3rd August should be drawn up by England, and that regard should be taken therein to the following points:—

1. That the Powers will see, in the immediate surrender of Dulcigno to Montenegro, a token of the sincerity of the Porte.

2. That the summons ("sommation") to the Porte will be maintained.

M. von Kallay informed Baron d'Oubril that we concur therein that England should draw up the reply, and that the two points mentioned by him should be inserted therein.

With regard to the summons, M. von Kallay told the Russian Ambassador that, of course, we understand by that merely the invitation of the Porte to join the other Powers in the sense of the concluding sentence of the collective note of the 3rd August.

Belgrave Square, August 21, 1880.

No. 458.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21, 10·40 A.M.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 20, 1880, midnight.*

WHILE attending the great manœuvres yesterday and to-day, His Majesty notified to me in strong terms his concurrence with your Lordship's proposed rejoinder to the Turkish reply to the collective note.

His Majesty was also pleased to express his satisfaction at the good understanding which had been established between Russia and England.

He also referred to Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and, though still regretting the policy which had resulted in the separation of the two provinces, gave me his personal assurance that nothing could be more unfounded than the suspicions propagated throughout Europe, in a great measure at the instigation of Austria, as to the intention of the Russian Government to upset the arrangement arrived at in Berlin with regard to Eastern Roumelia.

No. 459.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21, 12 *noon.*)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 20, 1880, *midnight.*

WITH reference to to Mr. Adams' telegram No. 71 of the 17th August, M. de Giers would propose to reply to the following effect:—

Let Turkey surrender Dulcigno at once, and thus show her goodwill; the rest can be seen to.

He does not agree, however, with the French Government in their wish to grant a further delay for the execution of the arrangement. This, he thinks, would be a mistake. He is entirely in favour of the naval demonstration taking place. He wishes me to suggest to you that Her Majesty's Government should formulate a distinct proposal which everybody would understand. He would do so himself were it not that the fact of Russia taking the initiative might arouse suspicion.

M. de Giers also thinks (though he must consult naval authorities) there will be no objection to the Russian ships going to Palermo, and he entirely concurs with your suggestion that the international fleet should keep out of sight of the Southern Albanian coast.

No. 460.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21, 10·30 A.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August* 20, 1880, 10 P.M.

THE attitude of the Scutari Committee since the arrival of the troops and Riza Pasha, and the change of Governor-General, is not satisfactory. It proclaims its determination to continue its opposition, and has been allowed to assume the collection and appropriate the Government tithes.

Riza Pasha has taken up his abode in the house of one of the leaders of the League, and Osman Pasha, immediately on his nomination, called officially on the Committee.

For whatever occurs here the Porte may be held justly responsible, as it has only to express its will to be implicitly obeyed. Riza Pasha is a weak man, most apt to veil by his timidity the obscure objects of the Porte. Osman Pasha, on the contrary, is courageous, and unhesitating in carrying out orders.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 461.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 20, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 415 to Mr. Goschen, instructions will be sent to the Italian Ambassador to sign the note if other Representatives are similarly instructed.

No. 462.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21, 10 A.M.)

(No. 110 [? 111].)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 21, 1880, 8 A.M.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he has been instructed to suggest to the Italian Government that Her Majesty's Government should draft the rejoinder to the Porte's note of the 18th instant relative to the Dulcigno arrangement.

Italian Government has assented, if other Powers do so.

No. 463.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 21, 1880.

INSTRUCTIONS will be sent to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to sign the rejoinder to the Turkish note on the Greek frontier, as proposed in your telegram No. 415 to Mr. Goschen.

No. 464.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 21, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Government are informed from Berlin that the Russian Ambassador there states that the Prince of Montenegro attaches no importance to the annexation of Dinosi to the Principality.

No. 465.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 21, 1880.

MONTENEGRIN frontier. Russian Ambassador has asked the Austrian Government to consent that Her Majesty's Government should prepare an answer to the Turkish proposal, and that it should repeat the "sommation" already conveyed to the Porte by the Powers.

The Austrian Government replied that if this expression applied to the intimation in the collective note, they were quite willing that Her Majesty's Government should prepare an answer in that sense.

No. 466.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 21, 1880.

PALERMO would not be a convenient rendezvous for the Austrian ships.

The Emperor puts all his ports in the Adriatic at the disposal of the allied squadrons, but the Austrian Government think that if, instead of proceeding to Cattaro, as proposed by your Lordship, they were to go to Ragusa, it would be found more convenient, on account of the supplies and coal that they might require.

No. 467.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 21, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's 482.

To save time, I have asked Prince Hohenlohe to authorize German Ambassador at Constantinople to sign note telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, if all other Ambassadors are authorized to do so, and he at once gave orders, in my presence, to his Secretary in that sense.

The text draft of note to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is therefore no longer required at present.

No. 468.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21, 3 P.M.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August 21, 1880, 12 noon.*

ALEKO PASHA returns to Filibé to-day. His Excellency has received Order of Osmanié from the Sultan.

No. 469.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 538.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 21, 1880, 4·50 P.M.*

THE following is the draft of a telegram which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"The Porte's reply to the collective note, as telegraphed yesterday by your Excellency, does not appear to be in agreement with the verbal announcement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, reported in your telegram of the 13th instant. In any case, it differs from the alternative to the Corti arrangement offered by the Powers in their collective note of the 3rd instant. As the Porte no longer offers to carry out that proposal within the term defined, and after the long delays that have occurred, the only satisfactory proofs it can give of its willingness to carry out its engagements will be the rapidity and completeness with which the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement is effected. Her Majesty's Government think it desirable that a naval force should be present to supervise the surrender, unless they are actually carried out before such force has arrived in the neighbourhood."

No. 470.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 539. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 21, 1880, 4·55 P.M.*

THE following is the draft of a further telegram which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Mr. Goschen:—

"With reference to my telegram No. , the written answer to the collective note, as telegraphed by you yesterday, differs materially from the verbal answer of Abédine Pasha in your telegram of the 13th August. In the latter the Dulcigno arrangement is accepted, excluding only the two points of Dinosi and Gruda. In the former, the part of the Dulcigno arrangement which relates to the east of the lake, is set aside, and the line indicated in the Treaty is substituted for it. This would give back the Kuči-Kraïna, now occupied by the Montenegrins, to Turkey, and would permit them to reopen the points discussed last year as to the direction of the line on the Podgoritza plain itself.

"It is possible that this may not have been the intention of the Porte in so wording their answer, but I call attention to the difference between the two answers for your information."

No. 471.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.‡

(No. 406.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 21, 1880, 5 P.M.*

AS regards the Montenegrin frontier, some of the Powers have expressed themselves in favour of a concession to Turkey with respect to Dinosi, while others have wished to adhere to the terms of the collective note. All are desirous of acting in concert on one or the other alternative.

* Also to Mr. Adams (No. 404), Sir H. Elliot (No. 488), Lord Odo Russell (No. 435), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 478).

† Also to Mr. Adams (No. 405), Sir H. Elliot (No. 489), Lord Odo Russell (No. 437), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 479).

‡ Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 540), Sir H. Elliot (No. 490), Lord Odo Russell (No. 438), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 480).

The question appears to have been disposed of by the written answer of the Porte, which differs from the previous verbal communication to the Ambassadors, and would reopen several questions, besides giving opportunities for indefinite delay.

Her Majesty's Government would be glad to know if the Government to which you are accredited will agree to instruct its Representative at Constantinople in the sense of the telegrams to Mr. Goschen of which drafts are sent to you to-day.

*[Also whether they will order their naval contingent for the proposed demonstration to proceed at once to Palermo, and will furnish the Commander with instructions similar to those already forwarded to you, with the necessary alterations as to dates and as to the concessions made by the Porte.]

†[Also whether they will make the necessary alterations as to dates and as to the concessions made by the Porte in the instructions to the Commander of their naval contingent, which Her Majesty's Government were glad to learn from your telegram No. 106 had been ordered to Palermo.]

No. 472.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.‡

(No. 418.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1880.*

I INCLOSE the draft of a despatch which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, as a rejoinder to the Porte's reply to the collective note of the 3rd instant on the Montenegrin frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 472.

Draft of a Despatch from Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(A.)
(No.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August , 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the Porte's reply to the collective note on the Montenegrin frontier question, of which a summary was telegraphed by your Excellency on the 20th instant, and I have to observe that it does not appear to them to be in agreement with the verbal announcement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, reported in your telegram of the 15th instant. In any case it differs from the alternative to the Corti arrangement offered by the Powers in their collective note of the 3rd instant, as the Porte no longer offers to carry out that proposal within the term defined, and after the long delays that have occurred, the only satisfactory proofs it can give of its willingness to carry out its engagements will be the rapidity and completeness with which the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement is effected.

Her Majesty's Government think it desirable that a naval force should be present to supervise the surrender, unless it is actually carried out before such force has arrived in the neighbourhood.

I am, &c.

No. 473

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.‡

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 21, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. of this day, I inclose the draft of a further despatch which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to Mr. Goschen on the Montenegrin frontier question.

* To Mr. Adams, the Earl of Dufferin, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell only.

† To Mr. Macdonell only.

‡ Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Adams, Mr. Macdonell, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.

I have already communicated the substance of these drafts to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 473.

Draft of a Despatch from Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(B.)
(No. .) *Foreign Office, August* , 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. (Draft A) of this day, I have to state to your Excellency that the written answer to the collective note, as telegraphed by you on the 20th instant, differs materially from the verbal answer of Abédine Pasha, as reported in your telegram of the 13th instant. In the latter the Dulcigno arrangement is accepted, excluding only the two points of Dinôs and Gruda, whereas in the former the part of the Dulcigno arrangement which relates to the east of the lake is set aside, and the line indicated in the Treaty is substituted for it. This would give back the Kuči-Krajna now occupied by the Montenegrins to Turkey, and would permit them to reopen the points discussed last year as to the direction of the line on the Podgoritza Plain itself. It is possible that this may not have been the intention of the Porte in so wording their answer, but I call attention to the difference between the two answers for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.

No. 474.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 420.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1880.

My Lord,

AS regards the Montenegrin frontier, some of the Powers have expressed themselves in favour of a concession to Turkey with respect to Dinôs, while others have wished to adhere to the terms of the collective note. All are desirous of acting in concert on one or the other alternative.

The question appears to have been disposed of by the written answer of the Porte, which differs from the previous verbal communication to the Ambassadors, and would reopen several questions besides giving opportunities for indefinite delay.

Her Majesty's Government would be glad to know if the Russian Government will agree to instruct their Representative at Constantinople in the sense of the proposed despatches to Mr. Goschen, of which the substance was telegraphed to your Excellency to-day† [and whether they will order their naval contingent for the proposed demonstration to proceed at once to Palermo, and will furnish the Commander with instructions similar to those already forwarded to your Excellency with the necessary alterations as to dates, and as to the concessions made by the Porte]; ‡ [and whether they will make the necessary alterations as to dates, and as to the concessions made by the Porte in the instructions to the Commander of their naval contingent, which Her Majesty's Government were happy to learn from your telegram No. 106 had been ordered to Palermo.]

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 475.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 183.) *Therapia, August* 21, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

LET me call attention to following point:—Admiral's instructions contemplate negotiations with Albanian Chiefs for preservation of their privileges. In substance, I

* Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Adams, Mr. Macdonell, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.
† To Lord Dufferin, Mr. Adams, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell only.
‡ To Mr. Macdonell only.

understand, he is to offer the Green-Lippich plan in case of acquiescence. But at this moment the Roumelian Commissioners are engaged on a recommendation to the Porte urging this identical arrangement. The Austrian Delegate is especially strong on the subject. The adjournment of this question, which I advised, and in which Lord E. Fitzmaurice concurred, has apparently become impossible. The Italian, French, Austrian, and German Delegates are determined to make a recommendation, and Lord E. Fitzmaurice is clearly of opinion that he must not join Russian Delegate in refusing to sign, more especially as the other Commissioners yielded to him on the subject of the Greek islands, and have now also, at his renewed instance, consented to a statement that the formation of a large Albanian Vilayet would not be objected to. Thus it is possible that, on Monday, the great majority of the Commissioners will unite in recommending a plan to the Porte which, if I understand rightly, [? your Lordship] would wish to make the price of submission to the will of Europe.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice does not think France, Italy, and Austria could be dissuaded from that course on which they have decided.

I have shown this telegram to Lord E. Fitzmaurice very confidentially.

No. 476.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 21, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Government approve generally the instructions proposed for the Admiral, but are sending by post to their Chargé d'Affaires the modifications they would suggest and a statement of other arrangements to be made about the demonstration.

They wish something to be settled about a Commander-in-chief, and are very anxious that he should be the British Admiral.

They desire that his authority should be supreme in all military matters, and that the other Commanders should be obliged to follow his directions in regard to them, being only consulted by him upon other questions.

This is held to be necessary for the safety of the ships and for the success of any operation.

They consider that the Admiral, instead of being directed to communicate with the nearest Turkish authorities, of whom he may find none of rank, should be instructed to call upon the Vali of Scutari, in whose jurisdiction Dulcigno lies, to go or send some one of sufficient position to give up the place.

They think also that provision should be made for the case of the Prince of Montenegro not being ready with a sufficient force to take possession of the district.

No. 477.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August* 21, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 56 of yesterday.

If the Porte's proposed modification for the east side of the lake is accepted, it ought to be clearly understood that it is only to apply to the line in the Plain of Podgoritza, otherwise difficulties would hereafter arise about the Kuči-Krajna, now in the possession of Montenegro.

I am inclined to look upon the demand for a prolongation of term by several weeks with the still more suspicion as there is absolutely no necessity for more than a few days to carry out the surrender.

People in the confidence of the Turkish authorities have been industriously circulating the assurance that the Porte will never use force against the Albanians, and have advised renewed efforts to bring forward volunteers from other districts.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 478.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August* 21, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 55 of yesterday just received.

Eight days from to-day ought to be sufficient for the surrender of all the territory to the west of Lake Scutari.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 479.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 76. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August* 21, 1880.

I HAVE gathered the following during a conversation with Riza Pasha this afternoon:—

The Porte's demand with reference to line on the Podgoritza plain has been put forward in order that Turkey may come into possession of the considerable extent of territory which would be awarded by a strict adherence to the localities mentioned in Treaty of Berlin, without regard to their positions on the Austrian map. This attained, the Porte believes it would be able to induce Prince Nicholas to give up his claim to Dulcigno in order to regain the frontier which the Boundary Commission would have otherwise traced to the east of the lake. This is the only meaning which Riza Pasha gives to the cession of Dulcigno in principle, and says that if another interpretation is given to it by the Powers they must send and enforce it themselves, the Turkish troops having only the mission to guard whatever frontier may ultimately be decided upon.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 480.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 21, 1880.

I HAVE seen Mr. Goschen's telegram. Am strongly of opinion that I ought to join French, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners in regard to Upper Albania. They have, at my request, amended the details of scheme; have clearly reserved rights of Tribunals outside Upper Albania, and added a guarded recommendation about a large Albania, besides accepting my views about Greek islands. If, after this, I decline to join them, the effect will be very bad. The attitude of the Russian Commissioner is inconsistent, and I do not want to associate myself with it. The fact that the Commissioners have recommended something will weigh as much with the Albanians as any arguments that something will be done for them if they give in about Dulcigno. Mountaineers besides are in possession of their privileges, and are already entitled to benefit of Article XXIII. These, therefore, cannot be offered them; but what they can be told is that the recommendations of Commissioners to the Porte will be actively supported if they yield on other points. On reflection, I think, therefore, there is no inconsistency between proposed action of Commissioners and views of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 481.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 22, 1880.

RUSSIAN Commissioner is hesitating, and I should not be astonished if he signed Albanian declaration after all. His instructions, I know, give him a practical *carte blanche*. In any case, I feel convinced, I should not separate myself from my other colleagues. They have yielded a great deal to me, and the declaration itself will, I feel no doubt, be approved by your Lordship.

No. 482.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 22, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, Russian Commissioner accepts. [? Commission] will now be unanimous.

No. 483.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 22, 1880.

COUNT MAFFEI wishes to know what is intended to be conveyed by the words "necessary alterations as to dates and as to concessions." See fourth paragraph of your Lordship's telegram No. 480.

No. 484.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 22, 1880.

I HEAR French Government has telegraphed to its Representative here that they consider the note of the Porte of the 18th in full accordance with the verbal declaration previously made on the same subject by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, consequently the naval demonstration falls through of itself.

No. 485.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 423.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 22, 1880, 8·20 A.M.

THE telegrams to you repeated in my two preceding telegrams are only drafts which have been proposed for the concurrence of the Powers.

No. 486.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 264.)
Athens, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the Greek Government is of opinion that the issue of the Proclamation to mobilize is necessary for preparation, and to retain in the ranks old soldiers, they will not take the step without at least the negative approval of France and England.

They will not go directly against their advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 487.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 266.)
Athens, July 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by his Government to make a complaint to the Greek Government with reference to the conduct of the Prefects of Larissa and Surpi, who, it is stated, have caused papers to be printed and circulated among the population of the neighbouring Turkish territory, announcing that Thessaly has been united to Greece, and that the inhabitants are henceforward absolved from all allegiance to the Sultan.

M. Tricoupi, in reply to this communication, assured Tewfik Bey that any such proceedings, if they had indeed taken place, would meet with the entire disapproval of the Greek Government.

His Excellency added that nothing was further from the wishes of the Greek Government than such inflammatory measures, as it was obviously in their interest that no step should be taken which could lead to complications, or tend to bring about a conflict between the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 488.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 268.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 5, 1880.

I COMMUNICATED to-day to M. Tricoupi the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 27 of the 3rd instant.

The King's Proclamation has been published to-day, fixing the 20th September as the day on which the Chamber shall assemble.

A further Proclamation, also signed by the King, will be issued this evening, mobilizing the army. It will have the effect of retaining in the ranks the trained soldiers whose time of service is about to expire; it also authorizes the calling out the classes of recruits who have not hitherto served.

The measure will be carried out in such a manner as not to appear in any way aggressive, but will have the character rather of preparation for future action if such is necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 489.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 269.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I learn that the German Chargé d'Affaires, acting under the orders of his Government, has addressed a note to M. Tricoupi, in which the Greek Government is invited to send an Agent to Munich, with the object of settling the question of the payment of the debt due, as is alleged, by Greece to Bavaria. The note proposed further that the matter should be settled under the arbitration of the German Minister at Munich.

A verbal communication was also made by M. de Waldenberg to the effect that the support given by Germany to Greece on the Frontier question would depend upon the manner in which this proposal was entertained by the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 490.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that information has been received by M. Tricoupi to the effect that it is the intention of the Sultan to request the Emperor of Germany to consent to act as Arbitrator between Turkey and the Powers, with a view to the settlement of the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 491.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 271.)
My Lord, *Athens, August* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that M. Tricoupi informed me to-day that difficulties were being raised by France as to furnishing the Greek Government with the 30,000 rifles promised by the French Minister of War. His Excellency added that he had reason to fear also that a delay had been caused in the departure from France of the officers whom the French Government had consented should be employed in the reorganization of the Greek army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 492.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August* 2, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in reply to one addressed to me by his Excellency, inclosing a copy of the note which had been addressed by the Porte to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, on the subject of the ill-treatment of the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 492.

Mr. Lascelles to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Sophia, August* 2, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note addressed by the Porte to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, on the subject of the ill-treatment of the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have not failed to call the attention of M. Zancoff to the complaints that have been made by the Porte, and to ask his Excellency to inform me whether there is any foundation for them.

His Excellency read to me a copy of a note which had been communicated to the Bulgarian Agency at Constantinople. This note was identical with the one inclosed in your Excellency's despatch, except that the last three paragraphs were omitted. The printed paper inclosed in your Excellency's despatch had not been communicated to the Bulgarian Government. At M. Zancoff's request, I left this paper with him, in order that he might have a copy of it made.

His Excellency has again assured me that since the Aïdos affair, nothing has occurred in the Principality to give any foundation for the complaints of the Porte. He said that the Report of the General for War on that affair was being copied, to be communicated to the Agents of the foreign Powers here, and that I should receive it in a day or two. He believed that the statements in the note, which did not refer to the Aïdos affair, were greatly exaggerated, and referred to events which had taken place many months ago, in that portion of the Principality which had been infested by brigands, but which now had been rendered perfectly tranquil by the measures taken by General Ehrnrooth. He trusted that the note which he had addressed to me on the 19th ultimo, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to Lord Granville, No. 118 of the 24th ultimo, was a sufficient proof of the desire of the Bulgarian Government that the Turks should be treated with humanity and justice.

In order to obtain as much information as possible on this subject, I have asked Nihad Pasha whether he had received any confirmation of the reports upon which the complaints of the Porte were based. He informed me that since the Aïdos affair, no complaints had reached him. The various facts mentioned in the note from the Porte had been brought to his knowledge at various times, but he did not believe that any case

of the sort had occurred recently. He was, on the whole, satisfied with the measure which M. Zancoff had adopted with regard to the return of the refugees, and, with the assurances he had given, with regard to the property of Mussulmans.

As your Excellency has done me the honour to ask for my views on this question, I would venture to suggest that it might be advisable, before taking any further steps in the matter, to see whether the Bulgarian Government will carry out the good intentions with which M. Zancoff says they are animated, by protecting the persons and property of the Mussulman population, and insisting that they shall be fairly treated by their Bulgarian fellow-subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 493.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 123 of the 2nd instant, in which I inclosed a copy of a despatch which I had addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the complaints made by the Porte with regard to the ill-treatment of the Turks in Bulgaria, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which I have received from M. Zancoff, in which his Excellency replies to the note which the Porte had addressed to the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople on the 15th ultimo.

M. Zancoff incloses the Report which had been drawn up by the Commander of the 7th Drougina, on the subject of the burning of the village of Bélibé, pointing out that that measure had been rendered necessary by the action of the Turks. His Excellency says that Bélibé was the only village destroyed, and that he has no knowledge of the burning of twenty-three villages referred to in the note of the Porte. With regard to the assertion that four Mussulmans were hanged, by order of a Bulgarian priest, M. Zancoff observes that, in the village in question, there was neither priest nor church; and, with regard to the assertion that the Prefect of Aïdos had preached the destruction of the Mussulmans, his Excellency states that the Prefect of Aïdos, which belongs to Eastern Roumelia, is himself a Mussulman.

M. Zancoff also inclosed a Report drawn up by the Minister of War, upon the measures which he took for the pacification of the eastern portion of the Principality. General Ehrnrooth points out the inadequacy of the measures adopted by the preceding Government to put an end to brigandage, and, after a lucid statement of the situation, states the measures which he thought it right to take, the most important of which were the distribution of arms to the Mussulman inhabitants, to enable them to protect themselves, and the establishment of Military Tribunals, in order to insure a prompt administration of justice. The wise and moderate measures adopted by General Ehrnrooth have had the effect of putting an end almost entirely to brigandage in the eastern portion of the Principality, and have inspired the Turkish population with confidence. The Report which he has addressed to the Prince is a most interesting document which I venture to recommend to your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 493.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le 3 Août*, 1880.

PAR ma Circulaire en date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer les renseignements les plus complets sur la situation des Musulmans dans la Principauté et sur les mesures prises par le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince pour donner une satisfaction équitable à leurs intérêts. J'ai cherché en même temps à vous démontrer par les faits combien les accusations formulées à notre charge par la Sublime Porte étaient peu fondées.

En attendant, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman consignait dans la note qu'il adressait à l'Agent Princier à Constantinople en date du 15 Juillet (N.S.), et dont ci-joint copie, de nouveaux griefs, qui pour être plus exagérés n'étaient pas mieux

précisés que les précédents. En l'absence de toute indication de date ou de localité, il y a lieu de supposer que ces griefs étaient destinés à se rapporter à l'engagement qui a eu lieu vers la fin d'Avril dans le village de Bélibé.

Si tel est en effet le cas, le rapport du Commandant de la Droujina No. 7, dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-près une copie, vous convaincra, j'espère, M. l'Agent, que cette fois encore les informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte dépassent de beaucoup la réalité des faits et même en dénaturent entièrement le caractère. En effet, loin d'avoir été les agresseurs, le troupes Princières qui avaient occupé le village de Bélibé eurent de la peine pendant deux jours à défendre leurs positions contre les attaques des nombreuses bandes de brigands. D'autre part, des trois seuls villages situés sur le territoire de la Principauté et dans les environs desquels l'engagement eut lieu, les troupes ne durent mettre le feu, quelque regrettable d'ailleurs qu'ait été cette mesure rigoureuse, mais malheureusement nécessaire, qu'à un seul, celui de Bélibé. L'explosion des munitions pendant l'incendie démontra suffisamment que ce village formait une sorte d'arsenal pour les brigands.

En tout cas, il y a loin de là jusqu'aux vingt-trois villages, qui, selon l'assertion de la Sublime Porte, auraient été attaqués, saccagés, pillés, ou brûlés par les Bulgares. Ignorant les noms mêmes de ces villages, nous ne sommes pas en mesure de répondre à l'allégation vague qui les concerne.

Nous ne savons pas davantage où auraient été arrêtés ou massacrés les habitants Musulmans dont on porte le nombre à quatre-vingt, en insinuant qu'il y en aurait eu même davantage. Il est permis toutefois de douter que ces faits eussent eu lieu à Bélibé où les troupes Princières n'ont trouvé qu'un seul homme valide, l'adjoint du Moukhtar.

Ce n'est certes pas là non plus qu'on aurait pu pendre quatre Musulmans "par ordre d'un prêtre Bulgare," attendu que dans le village précité il n'y avait ni église ni prêtre. Quant aux encouragements donnés aux paysans Bulgares par l'attitude de la force armée qui se serait tenue cachée, je dois constater qu'elle était au contraire exposée dans une situation découverte au feu que dirigeaient sur elle les brigands qui se dissimulaient dans les broussailles.

Il y a enfin dans la communication Ottomane encore un détail singulier que je ne puis m'empêcher de relever, bien qu'il ne rentre pas entièrement dans ma compétence. Le Sous-Préfet d'Aïdos (localité située dans la Roumélie Orientale) que la communication Ottomane accuse d'avoir prêché l'extermination des Musulmans, appartiendrait lui-même, à ma connaissance, à la religion Mahométane.

Je ne veux pas vous fatiguer, M. l'Agent, en m'appésantissant davantage sur ces contradictions inexplicables et inexpliquées, sur ces incertitudes, bizarres si elles ne sont pas intentionnelles. Dans l'intérêt de la vérité, je crois plus utile de vous faire parvenir ci-près copie du Rapport de M. le Général d'Ehrnrooth sur les mesures qu'il a cru devoir prendre dans la Bulgarie Orientale en vertu des pouvoirs exceptionnels qui lui avaient été confiés par l'Assemblée Nationale. En parcourant cette pièce vous reconnaîtrez, je n'en doute point, l'équité, la générosité, je dirai plus, la confiance que M. le Ministre de la Guerre, s'inspirant des vues du Gouvernment Princier, a su témoigner avec tant de sagesse à la population Musulmane de la contrée.

Si de son côté la Sublime Porte était animée des mêmes sentiments, non-seulement à l'égard de la Bulgarie mais surtout à l'égard de ses propres coreligionnaires qui habitent la Principauté, plutôt que d'élever contre nous des accusations que nous avons la conscience de ne pas mériter, il aurait sans doute pu prendre des mesures afin que le brigandage qui infeste notre territoire ne trouve des recrues dans les domaines de l'Empire, voire même dans sa capitale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. ANCOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 493.

Abédine Pasha to the Bulgarian Agent.

M. le Gérant, *Constantinople, le 15 Juillet*, 1880.

NOUS tenons de source officielle les renseignements suivants sur les événements tragiques qui ont eu lieu dans la zone orientale de la ligne de démarcation entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale.

Vingt-trois villages Musulmans situés tant dans la Principauté que dans la Roumélie Orientale ont été attaqués, saccagés, et pillés par les Bulgares, qui en ont incendié et

détruit plusieurs de fond en comble. Les habitants ont été massacrés ou soumis aux traitements les plus infâmes.

Sur quatre-vingt prisonniers Musulmans on en a pendu quatre par ordre d'un prêtre Bulgare; quant au reste, la moitié a été massacrée en route, l'autre moitié conduite à Varna.

Que ces actes criminels aient été prémédités de longue date, nos informations ne laissent subsister aucun doute à ce sujet. En effet, les paysans Bulgares avaient été avisés d'avance des événements sanglants auxquels la milice de la Principauté, les gymnastes, et les gendarmes Roumeliotes devaient prendre une part si active.

Contrairement aux suggestions des autorités locales tendant à faire accroire à une révolte Musulmane, il y a lieu de faire remarquer que la première attaque contre Bellova a été faite par des paysans Bulgares, encouragés par l'attitude de la force armée qui se tenait pour ainsi dire cachée, et que les Musulmans ayant voulu se défendre, les scènes de carnage dont ils ont été victimes commencèrent.

Les sinistres projets qu'on avait préparés contre ces malheureux ont reçu ainsi leur exécution, plus tôt peut-être que ne l'espérait le Préfet d'Aïdos lui-même quand il prêchait, quelque jours avant ces événements, l'extermination des Musulmans par les Bulgares.

Agissant d'après un plan arrêté, les assassins se sont livrés à des actes inouïs sur une étendue de territoire de huit heures en longueur et de trois en largeur. En attirant sur les faits qui précèdent votre plus sérieuse attention, je vous prie, M. le Gérant, de vouloir bien faire à Sophia les communications nécessaires tant en vue de l'arrestation et de la punition des coupables que de l'adoption de mesures propres à garantir l'avenir.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 493.

Traduction du Rapport du Commandant de la Droujina No. 7 de Lom-Palanka adressé au Commandant des Troupes du Détachement Oriental en date de Provadi, 2 Mai, 1880.

CONFORMÉMENT à vos ordres, les compagnies placées sous mon commandement ont occupé les villages limitrophes de la Roumélie Orientale—Aïradjik, Djerfedli, et Bélibé.

La première compagnie destinée à occuper Bélibé avait été avertie dans le village de Goulitza par la police et les paysans Bulgares sur les dispositions hostiles envers l'armée, de la population Musulmane de Bélibé et ses environs. A la suite de ces informations, le Commandant de la première compagnie, le Major Mondeff, s'installa à quelque distance de Bélibé, tout en expédiant un détachement dans le but de s'assurer s'il n'y avait pas d'embuscade dans le village et si on pouvait y entrer, et pour s'emparer des habitants armés s'il y avait lieu; mais le détachement envoyé ne trouva dans le village que des enfants, des vieillards, et des femmes, le reste de la population ayant quitté le village avec ses effets. Le Commandant de la compagnie rassembla ces vieillards et ces femmes et leur déclara qu'il était venu au village dans le but d'organiser l'administration Bulgare; il leur demanda en même temps de livrer les armes dont ils seraient possesseurs pour en faire dresser l'inventaire et les mettre en dépôt. Les villageois répondirent qu'ils n'avaient pas d'armes dans leurs maisons; ils expliquèrent l'absence des habitants capables de porter les armes par ce fait que la veille de l'entrée de la compagnie à Belibé, c'est-à-dire le 24 Avril, avait eu lieu dans le village voisin de Téké une cérémonie religieuse accomplie par dix-huit Imams dans le but de demander au ciel la pluie. Mais d'autres renseignements vinrent démontrer que le jour de ces prières publiques auxquelles prirent part les habitants de tous les villages environnants, la résolution avait été prise de ne pas laisser pénétrer les troupes dans les villages Turcs limitrophes de la Roumélie Orientale, et à la suite de cette résolution il fut décidé d'attaquer ouvertement la compagnie dès qu'elle entrerait à Bélibé. Le Commandant de la première compagnie ne se fiant pas à l'assertion des habitants restants, disant qu'ils n'avaient pas d'armes, appela le Turc adjoint du Moukhtar, le fit accompagner d'une patrouille pour faire une perquisition dans les villages. Mais comme il était difficile de découvrir toutes les armes cachées, il n'a été trouvé que huit fusils à [culasse ?] et un fusil Snider, tous chargés à balle. Il a été de même trouvé trois couteaux, des gibecières, des cartouches, et une petite quantité de poudre.

On arrêta également dans le village le Turc Ismaïl Rustem avec un long couteau dans la main, mais qui avait caché son fusil sans vouloir indiquer l'endroit où il se trouvait. Le soir la compagnie occupa le village en le cernant d'une chaîne renforcée afin de ne laisser entrer personne.

Pendant la nuit on arrêta le Turc Nosage Ali, qui voulait à tout prix, et malgré la consigne donnée, forcer la chaîne. Le lendemain, c'est-à-dire le 25 Avril, vers 10 heures du matin les avant-postes remarquèrent l'approche du côté de l'orient d'une bande armée de Turcs se dirigeant sur le village. Le Commandant du détachement envoya un peloton de sa compagnie à leur rencontre ainsi qu'une quinzaine de Bulgares armés pour arrêter ces Turcs. Ce détachement fut partagé en deux dans le but de les prendre en flancs. Ce jour-là, ainsi que la veille, on entendit de tous côtés des sons de tambours chez les brigands, qui donnaient probablement le signal d'une attaque générale du village de Bélibé, car après ce bruit de tambours, le 25 Avril on vit apparaître des bandes de brigands armés se dirigeant sur le village de trois côtés.

Comme le terrain parcouru par les brigands était montagneux et couvert de buissons, tandis que le village de Bélibé est situé sur une élévation dépourvu de végétation, les brigands eurent l'audace de s'approcher à une très-petite distance du village et d'ouvrir le feu.

Lorsqu'un peloton arrêta du côté occidental la marche en avant des brigands et les força à rebrousser chemin, les autres bandes qui avançaient par un mouvement combiné suspendirent également l'attaque, et s'abritant dans les buissons, continuèrent jusqu'à 4 heures de l'après-midi à tirer sur le reste de la compagnie qui se trouvait exposée à leurs coups. Pendant ce temps on voyait approcher des renforts qui venaient soutenir les brigands du côté du village Turc de Nadirlar et autres. A leur approche le feu devenait plus vif. Pour causer plus de dommage aux brigands dissimulés dans les buissons, la compagnie répondit par des salves de peloton et de section qui ralentissaient en effet le feu des brigands.

Pendant cet engagement l'adjoint du Moukhtar de Bélibé était venu demander l'autorisation de s'approcher des brigands pour leur expliquer que le village était occupé par des soldats, dans la supposition qu'ils ne continueraient pas à tirer contre ceux-ci. Après avoir obtenu la permission demandée le Moukhtar revint au bout d'une demi-heure, et déclara que l'attaque était dirigée par Tchoban Hassan, qui l'avait chargé de dire au Chef de la Compagnie que c'était précisément elle qu'il avait en vue, et qu'il invitait le Chef de la Compagnie à se retirer de Bélibé.

Les forces des brigands n'étaient pas égales le long de toute la ligne de leurs positions. Abrités par les buissons ils pouvaient changer de place, et profitant de leur supériorité numérique ils cherchaient évidemment à concentrer leurs efforts sur un point quelconque de notre position afin de rompre par une trouée la résistance de la compagnie; de son côté, il était impossible à celle-ci de prendre l'offensive tant parce qu'elle ne connaissait pas les particularités du terrain couvert de broussailles, que parce qu'elle se voyait obligée de protéger le corps du soldat tué ainsi que les blessés. En attendant, les femmes et les vieillards restés au village avaient été réunis et gardés à vue dans une maison afin de les préserver des violences des Bulgares armés qui étaient venus des villages environnants au nombre de près de sept cents hommes.

Dans la journée le Chef de la Compagnie a fait prévenir par lettre Tchoban Hassan que si les brigands ne suspendaient pas le feu et ne livraient pas leurs armes le village serait brûlé. Pendant l'engagement du 25 nous avons eu un soldat tué et cinq blessés, dont un sous-officier Russe et quatre simples soldats; trois des blessés l'étaient dangereusement. Le sous-officier Levandovsky avait reçu deux balles dans le bras gauche qui en brisèrent l'os, et une troisième dans la hanche gauche; les deux autres étaient aussi dangereusement blessés aux bras. Après les prières et les honneurs militaires rendus au soldat tué, André Tsékoff, son corps a été transporté le lendemain, 26, dans le village Bulgare de Goulitza, où il fut enterré dans l'enceinte de l'église. La veille le feu, après avoir duré jusqu'à 4 heures du soir, cessa complètement et ne recommença plus dans la nuit.

Dans la matinée du 26 on voyait approcher du côté de Nadirlar des groupes isolés de brigands et on entendait le son des tambours, mais comme dans le courant de la nuit deux compagnies et demie de ma droujina étaient arrivées à Bélibé, les brigands l'ayant probablement appris, semblèrent renoncer à renouveler le feu. On voyait cependant que tous les environs étaient occupés par des brigands isolés qui s'abritaient soit dans les broussailles soit dans les villages Turcs voisins de la frontière de Roumélie. Pour faire évacuer cette localité les quatre compagnies entreprirent une reconnaissance combinée de toute la zone frontière sur le territoire Bulgare, car les villages de

Nadirlar, Edaplar, et Toussouf Tchoban Hassan servaient évidemment de points de repaires aux brigands qui inquiètent ordinairement les habitants Bulgares du voisinage. Après le départ des compagnies de Bélibé, on voyait que les brigands abandonnaient rapidement leurs postes et se retiraient au fond du territoire Rouméliote. Pendant leur mouvement sur les hauteurs ouvertes de broussailles, les compagnies découvrirent trois huttes isolées qui étaient appropriées à la préparation des aliments et qui devaient avoir servi aux brigands. Ces huttes furent détruites. Je remis les femmes et les vieillards au Chef de l'Arrondissement pour les faire émigrer plus loin parce que je dûs brûler ce village. Pendant l'incendie on entendait dans presque toutes les maisons des explosions de poudre, de cartouches, et de fusils chargés. D'après les renseignements recueillis, les brigands se sont retranchés actuellement dans la grande forêt voisine du village d'Edaplar. Une autre bande de brigands se trouve non loin du village d'Hadji-Keui, dans les environs d'Aïdvadjik. En outre, suivant les diverses informations, il semble constant que les brigands reçoivent des renforts de la Turquie par le côté de la Mer Noire à des batiments débarquant des hommes, des cartouches, et de la poudre.

Le Commandant de la Droujina,
(Signé) VOULPIUS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 493.

Traduction du Rapport de Son Excellence le Général d'Ehrnrooth, Ministre de la Guerre de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie.

VOTRE Altesse n'ignore point, que depuis le commencement du printemps les Ministères de la Guerre et de l'Intérieur recevaient presque tous les jours les rapports les plus inquiétants des provinces déclarées en état de siège. Ces rapports signalaient le développement rapide du brigandage dans le pays, la panique enfin qui commençait à s'emparer de la population locale.

La plupart de ces rapports attribuaient au brigandage le caractère politique d'une révolte des Musulmans contre l'ordre des choses établi. Cette appréciation semble même avoir pénétré dans les sphères diplomatiques.

Les autorités locales militaires niaient, il est vrai, le caractère politique du brigandage; toutefois elles constataient son accroissement et l'insuffisance des moyens dont elles disposaient pour lutter avec succès contre le mal qui s'aggravait de plus en plus; elles réclamaient en conséquence l'augmentation des moyens de répression.

Pour faire face à cet état de choses, dès le mois de Mars dernier un détachement spécial fut formé dans la partie orientale de la Principauté, sous les ordres du Colonel Boborykine; trois nouvelles Droujines furent dirigées dans cette contrée. De son côté, le Ministère de l'Intérieur adressa une Circulaire aux Gouverneurs réglant la coopération des autorités civiles et militaires et autorisant certaines mesures pénales en vue de la répression du brigandage.

Je n'entrerai pas ici dans l'examen des dispositions précitées; je me permettrai seulement de faire observer que la Circulaire de M. Iconomoff, tout en admettant d'un côté les mesures les plus rigoureuses et pourtant selon moi inutiles, telles que la destruction des villages par le feu, l'émigration en masse des habitants, ne contribuait nullement d'autre part à unifier l'action du pouvoir exécutif, militaire et de police, ce qu'exigeait évidemment la situation.

Les inconvénients ne tardèrent pas à se manifester et le Conseil des Ministres, autorisé par votre Altesse, se vit obligé bientôt de soumettre à l'Assemblée Nationale un Projet de Loi destiné à concentrer entre mes mains tous les pouvoirs pour la répression du brigandage. Le Projet de Loi fut adopté le 26 Avril dernier.

Arrivé sur place, j'annonçai par une Proclamation en date du 5 Mai, que je commençais l'accomplissement de la tâche qui m'était confiée. Les rapports des Chefs militaires indiquaient en général que les bandes de brigands offraient un double caractère: les unes se formaient près des frontières de la Principauté et présentaient un effectif considérable s'élevant souvent à une cinquantaine d'hommes et plus; les autres se recrutant parmi les habitants de plusieurs localités, comme par exemple à Bely-Orman, Touzlouk, Gherlovo qui ont depuis longtemps acquis une mauvaise réputation; celles-ci composées de cinq, dix, ou quinze individus se réunissaient dans un point quelconque d'où elles partaient pour se livrer au pillage; mais à l'approche des troupes les hommes de ces petites bandes cachaient leurs armes ou se dispersaient

pour rentrer chez eux, ou se réfugiaient enfin dans des endroits d'un accès difficile où leur présence ne pouvait pas être découverte.

Les bandes de la première catégorie pouvaient être bien plus facilement poursuivies par les troupes; tandis que celles de la seconde, en évitant dans la plupart des cas les rencontres avec la force armée maintenaient la population, surtout dans des localités peu abordables, dans une appréhension constante et pour la sécurité de leurs biens et même pour leur existence.

Ce qui contribuait particulièrement à la formation des bandes, en dehors des frontières de la Principauté, c'est l'existence au sud de la Rivière Kamtchik d'une zone qui quoique adjugée par le Traité de Berlin à la Principauté, n'a même pas vu paraître jusqu'à ces derniers temps les organes de son autorité gouvernementale. Depuis le départ des troupes d'occupation Russe, il n'y est venu de temps à autre que quelques gendarmes de la Roumélie Orientale, surtout dans le but de percevoir les impôts. Le bruit répandu par des agitateurs que cette zone n'appartenait point au territoire de la Principauté entretenait parmi la population locale, mi-partie Turque et Bulgare, une fermentation constante, une incertitude complète, dès lors il y avait là un asile tout prêt pour des personnes qui n'attendaient qu'une occasion afin de former des bandes de brigands.

Votre Altesse daignera se souvenir que l'occupation de cette zône par les troupes eut lieu encore avant mon arrivée et provoqua toute une série d'escarmouches qui se terminèrent par l'affaire de Bélibé. Dans cette rencontre la plus forte bande, celle de Tchoban Hassan, fut défaite et le Chef lui-même fut blessé, à ce qu'on assure, ce qui termina l'occupation de la région au delà du Kamtchik.

Excepté d'autres raisons, la formation des bandes locales était considérablement favorisée par la situation sans défense dans laquelle avait été placée la population Turque. Dans les villages Musulmans dont les habitants désarmés ne pouvaient pas opposer de résistance active aux brigands, ceux-ci trouvaient toujours gîte et aliments. Privée d'un côté de toute possibilité de défendre sa vie et ses biens, la population Musulmane n'obtenait de l'autre aucune protection de la part des autorités de police. Traitée au contraire par celle-ci avec une défiance malveillante, exposée souvent à l'arbitraire et même aux violences de ses organes, la population Musulmane pouvait jusqu'à un certain point devenir solitaire avec les brigands; redoutant de plus leur vengeance, elle se voyait parfois obligée non-seulement de leur fournir des moyens de subsistance, mais même de les soustraire à la poursuite des autorités.

Jusqu'à la formation du détachement orientale, toutes les personnes accusées de brigandage étaient jugées par le Tribunal Militaire ordinaire avec le concours des Juges militaires.

L'insuffisance du personnel judiciaire militaire d'un côté, les formes compliquées de la procédure en vigueur de l'autre, joints à la grande quantité des prévenus, faisaient que les procès s'attardaient et détournaient des officiers pour l'accomplissement des fonctions judiciaires, et une masse d'habitants pour les témoignages en justice et par d'autres formalités.

Si l'on ajoute que quelques-unes des autorités, comme par exemple le ci-devant Chef d'Arrondissement à Varna, arrêtaient des gens sans discernement, par masses, on comprendra que les prisons regorgeaient de détenus; en même temps les châtiments eux-mêmes perdaient leur signification, comme contrepoids à la terreur qu'inspiraient les brigands.

Je reconnus que la solution du problème qui m'était confié devait être facilitée surtout par les mesures suivantes:

Faire cesser la situation sans défense de la population Musulmane.

Etablir entre l'Administration et la population Turque des relations indépendantes des appréciations étroites de nationalité et d'une partialité malveillante.

Amélioration du personnel de la police par l'éloignement des employés vicieux ou qui avaient été l'objet de soupçons graves.

Administration sévère mais prompte de la justice.

Renforcer ou atténuer l'action de la police à l'égard de la population dans la mesure de ce que pouvait exiger la sécurité publique dans telle ou telle localité.

Faire cesser enfin l'action isolée des autorités civiles et militaires dans la poursuite et de la capture des brigands.

C'est vers ces divers objectifs que je dirigeai mon activité. Les principales des mesures que je pris furent les suivantes:

1. Tout territoire déclaré en état de siège fut divisé en rayons militaires, ce dont le Colonel Boborykine avait déjà pris l'invitation. Toutes les autorités de police

furent subordonnées aux Chefs des rayons. A son tour chacun des rayons fut divisé en districts de police militaire soumis aux Chefs des compagnies.

2. Les Chefs militaires des rayons furent autorisés à distribuer des armes et des cartouches aux habitants Turcs; il leur fut prescrit néanmoins de ne donner que le nombre indispensable d'armes et seulement aux personnes dignes d'une entière confiance.

3. Les habitants Musulmans offrant la même garantie, furent autorisés à former des escoundes armées ("potéry") pour la poursuite des brigands, à l'instar de ce qui avait été permis aux Chrétiens.

4. Les Chefs militaires reçurent l'ordre de traiter la population sévèrement, mais impartialement et sans distinction de race ou de croyance; il leur fut prescrit en même temps de ne pas tolérer des grossièretés, des violences, où aucun abus de la part de la force armée ou des organes de la police.

5. Dans tout le territoire déclaré en état de siège, furent créés des Tribunaux militaires de campagne dont l'ordre de procédure sommaire fut simplifié jusqu'aux dernières limites.

6. Les punitions infligées par ces Tribunaux comprenaient la peine de mort, l'emprisonnement avec fers, et les amendes pécuniaires; il fut recommandé de donner à ce dernier genre de châtiment la plus large application.

7. Pour prévenir l'encombrement dans les prisons des criminels condamnés à une détention plus ou moins prolongée, les Chefs des rayons reçurent la faculté de remplacer la détention simple par des amendes pécuniaires et même par la mise en liberté sous caution de personnes dignes de confiance.

8. Je déclarai que la destruction des villages par le feu, l'expulsion des habitants par mesure de punition ne répondaient point au but.

9. Pour améliorer le personnel de la police j'autorisai les Chefs des rayons à nommer aux fonctions vacantes de Commissaires et de gendarmes de bons sergents et sous-officiers, sans avoir égard non plus pour les différences de races.

10. Pour calmer l'esprit de la population par un examen attentif et impartial des plaintes qu'elle formulait et de besoins qu'elle éprouvait, je formai des Commissions Mixtes présidées par les Chefs des droujines et composées de délégués choisis parmi les habitants notables de l'arrondissement, sans distinction de religion. Ces Commissions devaient parcourir les arrondissements dans le courant du mois. En arrivant dans chaque localité, elles devaient examiner toutes les plaintes qui leur seraient soumises contre les organes de la police; elles étaient même investies de droit, dans le cas où elles auraient découvert les abus, d'éloigner immédiatement les coupables.

Bien que jusqu'au moment actuel ces mesures n'aient pas encore conduit l'affaire à bonne fin dans une contrée où le brigandage n'avait, pour ainsi dire, jamais cessé d'exister; elles ont en tout cas donné des résultats favourables et évidents. Bien que l'apparition de nouvelles bandes, des actes de pillage, des assassinats ou des meurtres se produisant encore de temps à autre, mais ces faits deviennent de plus en plus rares.

La part prise par la population Turque, par exemple, dans les arrondissements de Rasgrade, de Djouma, et d'Osman Bazar à la formation des "potérys" (escoundes) a eu des conséquences très-satisfaisantes; autrefois la poursuite des brigands par les troupes aboutissait rarement à un résultat quelconque; tandis que actuellement les escoundes des habitants armés ont inspiré en peu de temps une crainte salutaire aux brigands. Connaissant parfaitement les localités, chaque sentier, chaque défilé, chaque cachette, ces escoundes ont commencé à dépister les brigands et à diriger contre eux des attaques subites qui se terminèrent ordinairement avec succès. En conséquence, les rencontres des brigands avec les troupes devinrent plus rares; même le caractère des engagements se modifie sensiblement.

A côté de cela des habitants des villages commencèrent à recevoir les brigands qui venaient les piller ou leur demander des aliments à coups de fusil, et en tuèrent et blessèrent plusieurs.

Encouragés par la confiance qui leur fut témoigné par la distribution des armes, et redoutant d'autre part les châtiments rigoureux décrétés par le recel, les Turcs ne laissent plus entrer les brigands dans leurs villages, et souvent les tuent ou les livrent aux autorités.

Ne pouvant plus obtenir des provisions dans les villages, chassés loin des habitations à coups de fusil, les brigands eux-mêmes commencent à se soumettre et à déposer les armes en demandant seulement d'être graciés et réintégrés dans leurs domiciles antérieures. C'est ainsi que dernièrement une bande composée d'une centaine de brigands, bien armés, fit sa soumission dans l'arrondissement d'Osman-Bazar.

Dans toute la contrée déclarée en état de siège, les parties qui me semblent les moins garanties contre l'apparition des bandes de brigands sont celles des arrondissements de Silistrie et de Bazardjik qui avoisinent la frontière Roumaine et Dely-Orman. Il est notoire que depuis fort longtemps dans la forêt de Dely-Orman le brigandage est considéré sinon comme un métier entièrement licite, du moins comme aussi peu déshonorant que tout autre. En présence de pareils éléments de désordre, la tranquillité de la contrée dépendra beaucoup de la manière d'agir des autorités frontières de l'Etat limitrophe. La supposition énoncée plus d'une fois par les autorités administratives de Silistrie et de Varna que celles de la frontière Roumaine toléreraient la formation de bandes ayant pour but d'exercer le pillage en Bulgarie, n'est nullement démontrée à même, à mon avis, invraisemblable. Mais ce qui me paraît confirmé par les événements eux-mêmes, c'est que la manière d'agir des autorités Roumaines, en ce qui concerne la poursuite et la capture des brigands qui infestaient la partie orientale de Bulgarie était passive et dépourvue de tout indice de bon voisinage, quoiqu'en dise à cet égard le Rapport étendu de M. le Préfet de Constance (Kustendjé) qui, je crois, ne peut convaincre que celui qui désire être convaincu.

Depuis mon arrivée à Schoumla, ayant examiné la situation générale des provinces orientales, je reconnus que non-seulement il serait superflu de renforcer le nombre des troupes qui étaient déjà introduites, mais qu'on pourrait graduellement réintégrer non moins de trois droujines dans leurs cantonnements habituels dans la Bulgarie occidentale, afin de leur permettre d'achever leur instruction militaire; aussi la droujina de Sistova a-t-elle été renvoyée le 4 Juin et celle de Lom-Palanka le 15 du même mois; celle de Selvi pourra être également renvoyée prochainement.

Bien que la sécurité matérielle de la contrée ait été rétablie actuellement dans une certaine mesure, je crois néanmoins opportun de maintenir encore pendant quelques temps l'état de siège parce que le personnel des fonctionnaires civiles n'a pas encore acquis l'autorité nécessaire qui pût se substituer au prestige que, aux yeux de la population Turque, conserve encore les anciens officiers de l'armée Russe.

Le Ministre de la Guerre,
(Signé à l'original) Général EHRNROOTH.

No. 494.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 23.*)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Sophia, August 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 121 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I did not fail to call the attention of M. Zancoff to the further reports which had reached me from Rustchuk with regard to the enlistment of volunteers. M. Zancoff repeated what he had already told me, and said that M. Slaveikoff, who had lately been acting as Prefect of Tirnova, was at present at Sophia, and that he would request him to call upon me, as he would be in a position to give me any information on the subject which I might require.

His Excellency said that he would not mention to M. Slaveikoff the subject on which I desired to obtain information.

M. Slaveikoff consequently called upon me, and in answer to my inquiries informed me that although the association to which M. Zancoff had referred had been formed last year, it had not assembled at all this year, and that there was absolutely no foundation for the reports with regard to the enlistment of volunteers. I asked M. Slaveikoff how he accounted for the reports which had reached me. He replied that last year a battalion of volunteers had been formed for service on the frontier. The battalion had now been disbanded, and the men had been marched through Tirnova on the way to their homes. He was not aware of any other circumstance which could have given rise to the report.

During the visit which I have recently paid to the Prince of Bulgaria at the monastery of Rilo, I took an opportunity of speaking to His Highness on this subject, as well as on the subject of the arrival of arms and ammunition from Russia.

His Highness said he had absolutely no knowledge of any enlistment of volunteers or of the existence of any association such as that referred to by M. Zancoff. With regard to the arms which had recently arrived from Russia, His Highness said that they formed part of a number of rifles which he had purchased in the month of January, and which had not yet been all delivered. He had purchased them in consequence of the decision which had been adopted to arm the Bulgarian army with Berdan rifles, and even

now there would not be sufficient to arm the reserves, and it would be necessary to purchase a further quantity. He could assure me that the reports about the increased armaments of Bulgaria had no foundation; on the contrary, it had been necessary to diminish the number of the artillery in consequence of the reduction which had been made in the Military Budget.

His Highness also told me that he had signed a Decree calling out the reserves at Sophia, and he explained to me that this was merely an administrative measure, as it was necessary to ascertain what the numbers of the reserve really were. It was impossible to trust to the lists that had been drawn up, and the men would only be kept under arms for a fortnight.

His Highness trusted that this measure, which had become absolutely necessary, would not be looked upon as an attempt to mobilize the Bulgarian army, and he requested me to assure your Lordship that he had no intention of doing so or of increasing his armaments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 495.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Acting Vice-Consul at Varna, stating that the Mussulmans had been forbidden by the authorities to complain to foreign Consular authorities.

Mr. Brophy also reports the diminution of brigandage and the probability of the emigration of Mussulmans from the Principality ceasing, if they are assured that their lives and property will be respected.

The amelioration in the condition of the Turks to which Mr. Brophy refers, is due to the measures taken by the Minister of War, to which I had the honour of calling your Lordship's attention in my despatch No. 124 of to-days date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 495.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, July 22, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a short time ago the various Local Governments summoned the leading Mussulmans of their districts, and threatened them with severe punishment in case of any of the Turkish population making any complaints to the foreign Consular authorities or having recourse to them in any way.

So afraid are the authorities of Turks from the interior reporting upon the state of their districts, either to Constantinople or elsewhere, that it is a usual plan for them to search the baggage and persons of Mussulman travellers for possible documents on the subject.

Complaints of brigandage have lately not been so frequent, and the Bulgarian Government has at last adopted the sensible course of distributing a few rifles to various Mahommedan villages in order to protect themselves against brigands, the result being that those districts which were formerly the most insecure are now the quietest, but on the other side of the border the Eastern Roumelian authorities do not seem to have followed this good example.

Seventy-six Turkish brigands, availing themselves of the partial amnesty recently offered them, are reported to have surrendered to the authorities.

Large numbers of the Mahommedan peasants still continue to emigrate, but if the present amelioration is not merely transitory, and they are assured that henceforward their lives and property will be respected, it is likely that the rest will stay and cultivate their lands in peace, and thus the insufficiently populated country will not be deprived of an industrious and productive element.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 496.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 480.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 16, 1880.*

I THIS afternoon put into M. de Kállay's hands the note, signed and sealed by your Lordship, inclosed in your despatch No. 496, recording the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to various Acts of Delimitation elaborated by Commissioners under the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 497.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 481. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 16, 1880.*

I HAVE asked M. de Kállay whether he had heard anything of a suggestion that the Island of Crete should be substituted for some of the territory which the Turkish Government show so much repugnance to cede to Greece.

He said that a short time ago M. de Giers, in a conversation with Count Kalnoky, had alluded to this as an arrangement which it might perhaps be possible to arrive at, but his language was rather of the character of a feeler than a suggestion.

M. Kállay added that he was much mistaken if the Russian was the only Government that had conceived this idea, but I could not satisfy myself whether he pointed to France or to Italy.

I observed that the adoption of such a plan would make it appear that the object of the Powers had simply been to despoil Turkey for the benefit of Greece, and would be an abandonment of the grounds upon which the demand for a rectification of the land frontier of Greece had hitherto been justified.

M. Kállay said that such was also his opinion, but that he should not be surprised if we hear more of this scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 498.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 483.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that if all the other Cabinets agree to the rejoinder to the Turkish note upon the Greek frontier proposed in your telegram No. 453, the Austro-Hungarian Government will be ready to join in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 499.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 485.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 17, 1880.*

M. KÁLLAY informs me that he has telegraphed to ask the opinion of the different Cabinets upon the proposal of the Porte at once to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement, provided Dinosi is not to be ceded to Montenegro.

He did not himself express to me any distinct opinion upon it one way or the other, but his language led me to infer that he would be glad if there was a disposition to accept it, so that a settlement of the question might be arrived at, its speedy solution being a matter of great importance.

He remarked that while it was easy for the Powers to give Montenegro material naval

assistance in taking possession of Dulcigno, they would be powerless to do so as regards any positions to the east of the Lake of Scutari, and he was particularly emphatic in his declaration that Austria would not send troops into the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 500.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 487. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I MENTIONED to M. Kállay that Lord Dufferin had received the most satisfactory assurances from the Russian Government that they are discouraging any revolutionary or unionist movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and that Her Majesty's Ambassador thought Count Kalnoky agreed with him in believing these assurances to be sincere, and also in considering the Russian Government to be able to prevent any such movement from taking place.

M. Kállay replied that no doubt Count Kalnoky, as well as the Imperial Government, knew Russia to be perfectly able to prevent any disturbance from taking place, and believed that they were sincere in saying that they would deprecate it at present, but he strongly emphasized those two last words, observing that Russia was the one country which, never losing sight of its object, knew how to bide its time, and it was impossible to be blind to the fact that everything had been done in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia to prepare them for a movement as soon as a favourable opportunity for it should occur.

M. Kállay hoped very soon to be able to give me a summary of the reports of the Imperial Consular Agents upon the officers and men and of the arms that have been sent from Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 501.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 488.)
Vienna, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Minister has spoken to me of the preparations which he believes to be going on in Bulgaria for a movement which will be very dangerous for his country.

The Bulgarians avowedly regard the Dobroudscha as properly belonging to themselves, and if they continue to be allowed to act without regard to the Treaty of Berlin, they will soon be in a position to make it impossible for Roumania to defend the Dobroudscha, which she had been forced by Europe to accept in exchange for the territory of which she had been despoiled.

He alluded to the explanation lately given to your Lordship by Prince Labanow about the arms that had been furnished by Russia, but said that he was convinced that Her Majesty's Government could not be deceived by an assurance so palpably incorrect.

His own Government were in a position to know that the arms spoken of by the Russian Ambassador did not amount to a tenth part of those that had been supplied.

The Treaty permitted Bulgaria to have a national militia, but, instead of that, she had been allowed to create a regular army that was not a militia at all in any sense of the word.

There were to be no ships of war on the Danube, but in defiance of the Treaty the Emperor of Russia had made a present of river monitors to the Prince of Bulgaria, who was permitted to keep them.

The fortresses were to be destroyed within a year, but they are suffered to remain, and Varna, Schumla, Silistria, and Rustchuk seem likely to continue a standing menace to the Roumanian province on whose confines they are placed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 502.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 489.)
Vienna, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING a conversation that I had yesterday with the Servian Envoy, allusion having been made to the position of affairs in Bulgaria, M. Christic expressed much regret at the restless temper which seemed to prevail there. Upon my observing that it had been said that the Bulgarians were anxious to form an alliance with Servia, M. Christic said that he should have thought that the impossibility of anything of the kind must be self-evident.

One great object of Bulgarian ambition was extension into Macedonia, where the great majority of the inhabitants were of the Servian race, and no Servian Government could be found ready to countenance their absorption into the sister Principality.

This language very closely resembled that which I have reported M. Kállay to have held upon the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 503.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 490.)
Vienna, August 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I ASKED the Roumanian Minister yesterday whether, now that the question of the Consular jurisdiction in Bulgaria appeared settled, it was not the intention of his Government to let their Agent return to Sophia.

M. Balatchano replied that I was quite mistaken in speaking of the question as settled, for that although the Bulgarian Government had, under the advice of the different Powers, given way upon the particular case where the seals of the Roumanian Consul had been removed by the local authorities, they continued as before to deny that Roumania enjoyed the same Consular rights as other countries.

He stated, declaring it as a fact that he could guarantee, that the Russian Government had advised the Bulgarians not to give way upon that point, which, if they held out, would be decided in their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 504.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 492.)
Vienna, August 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I INFORMED M. Kállay this afternoon of the substance of the telegram I had just received from your Lordship respecting the conversation you had had with the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires upon the question whether the last proposal of the Porte about the Montenegrin frontier should be accepted, or whether the demands made by the note of the 3rd instant ought to be maintained.

He had not yet received from M. Hengelmüller any report of this conversation, but he said that it was evident that what he had remarked to the French Chargé d'Affaires had been completely misunderstood.

M. Montmarin had spoken to him about the last proposal of the Porte, and had said that his Government considered it questionable whether it might not be adopted as far as the cession of Dulcigno was concerned, leaving the question with regard to Dinosi undecided.

He had replied that he did not think this advisable.

The Imperial Government were very anxious that this frontier question should be disposed of promptly, but also conclusively, and it would be left indefinitely open if, after the annexation of Dulcigno to Montenegro, there were to be negotiations about the frontier-line to the east of the Lake of Scutari, and therefore, if the offer of the Porte

were to be adopted, he thought it better that the Powers should agree that Dinosi was not to be detached from Albania.

He had, he said, carefully abstained from expressing an opinion upon the course to be followed; for he had, on the contrary, declared that he would be guided entirely by the wishes of the other Governments, whether they proposed to adhere to the programme of their note or to accept the last offer of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 505.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 494. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 18, 1880.

AS directed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday I have asked M. de Kállay whether it was not, in his opinion, desirable to adhere to the declaration contained in the collective note of the 3rd instant, but I entirely failed in obtaining any satisfactory answer from him.

He began by saying that he would adopt the course that the other Governments thought desirable, and it was impossible to induce him to go further.

I represented in vain that as the Montenegrin question had been regarded throughout as one that interested Austria more than any other Power, she was especially called upon to state what seemed to her the proper course to adopt, and that if every Government were to shut itself up in the same reserve that he maintained, no satisfactory progress could be made.

He confined himself to repeating "we will adhere to whatever the other Governments desire, either about maintaining the collective note or accepting the Turkish proposal, but we will take no initiative in the matter," and I produced no effect when I argued that by expressing an opinion he could not be said to be taking an initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 506.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 470 of the 9th August, and, in conformity with the instructions therein contained, I at once delivered to Prince Hohenlohe the note, signed and sealed by your Lordship, recording the sanction of Her Majesty's Government to various acts of delimitation elaborated by Commissioners under the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 507.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 370. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August* 18, 1880.

IN the course of conversation with the Emperor to-day, I ventured to ask His Majesty what he thought of our Eastern prospects?

The Emperor replied that he anticipated prolonged resistance on the part of the Porte, but that he hailed the European concert as a beneficial experiment, which he sincerely hoped might be crowned by perfect success. The danger His Majesty foresaw was the probable attempt of Eastern Roumelia to unite with Bulgaria. He had, in consequence, communicated privately with his nephew, the Czar, on the subject, and had received from His Russian Majesty the most positive assurances and promises that he

would do all in his power to prevent it, and to uphold the principles laid down in the Treaty of Berlin.

He had then asked the Czar how His Majesty accounted for the arrival of Russian soldiers and of war material in Bulgaria? The Czar replied that he did not believe in the reports which had been circulated on the subject, but that he would give strict and positive orders to the Russian authorities not to tolerate any attempts of the kind.

"I am bound," the Emperor said, "to believe in the word of my nephew the Czar, but what I suspect and fear is, that Miliutine is acting with the Panslavists behind His Majesty's back."

The Czar's orders, I said, would surely not be disregarded by General Milintine?

The Emperor replied that they would doubtless have the effect of arresting for the present the proceedings of the Panslavists, but he believed himself that the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia would be attempted in the future by the Panslavists, and that the European Powers would have, sooner or later, to deal with that question.

I said that it was a question which was much dreaded in Austria.

The Emperor replied that he had told the Emperor of Austria at Ischl what he had just told me, but that although His Majesty listened with interest he appeared embarrassed and made no reply. His Majesty added that he was at a loss to explain the Austrian Emperor's silence, whom he had otherwise found as communicative and cordial as ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

P.S.—*20th August.*—Since writing the above, Prince Hohenlohe came to dine with us at Potsdam, and, without telling him what the Emperor had said to me, I questioned him as to the assurances given by the Russian Government in regard to Bulgaria.

His Highness said that he fully believed in the intention and desire of the Czar and his Ministers to prevent the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia at present, and he thought they would succeed in postponing the evil hour, but he thought also that it was a contingency the European Powers must be prepared for, as the Panslavists were quite cunning and enterprising enough to outwit the Russian authorities, and drag them into a difficulty they would prefer to avoid and prevent.

The Austrian Government, his Highness said, were much alarmed at the prospect of Russian intrigues in Bulgaria and of Italian intrigues in Albania.

They did not seem to know how to prevent the former, but they had an idea that the formation of an autonomous Albania would prevent the latter.

Germany, Prince Hohenlohe said, could have no objection to an autonomous Albania, but its formation would serve as an encouragement to the East Roumelians to form a greater Bulgaria.

These were, however, questions of the future which the Powers had time to consider; at present Prince Bismarck shared the wish of Austria to see the Montenegrin question settled and set aside before the "Libonio" put a stop to all naval demonstrations in the Adriatic.

O. R.

No. 508.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 371. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August* 18, 1880.

ON the 14th instant I received your Lordship's telegram repeating Mr. Goschen's No. 170, Secret, of the 12th instant, and I sought an opportunity of observing to Prince Hohenlohe that he must have mistaken the drift of Count Hatzfeldt's telegram, since his Excellency declared himself that he had made no communication to Berlin justifying the statement that any proposition or suggestion for compromise as to Janina could be ascribed to Mr. Goschen.

Prince Hohenlohe said that the mistake arose from the fact that Count Hatzfeldt had telegraphed that he and his colleagues agreed that, if Janina was left to Greece, a peaceful settlement appeared to be far less likely than if it were left to Turkey, and that Mr. Goschen had communicated this opinion to Her Majesty's Government.

Besides which, Prince Hohenlohe said, a copy of a despatch had been confidentially communicated to him by the Russian Ambassador in Berlin from M. de Novikoff to

M. de Giers of the 27th or 29th ultimo, recounting a conversation with Mr. Goschen on the subject of his Excellency's recent audience of the Sultan and subsequent visit to Abédine Pasha, in the last paragraph of which M. de Novikoff reported that Mr. Goschen was of opinion that a settlement of the Greek frontier could be more easily effected if Turkey were allowed to retain Janina.

Sadoullah Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, in asking that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be authorized to reconsider the Berlin Award with the Porte, had urged that the British Ambassador acknowledged the difficulty of depriving Turkey of Janina, and that his Excellency's opinion was shared by his colleagues.

He, Prince Hohenlohe, had replied to Sadoullah Bey that he knew for certain that Her Majesty's Government, and in consequence all the other Powers acting in concert, were determined to adhere to the Berlin Award, and that the German Government would, therefore, not entertain any new propositions in regard to the Greek frontier.

Prince Hohenlohe went on to explain that he had, in consequence of these communications, connected in his own mind the Janina question with Mr. Goschen's name, until he had discovered that the suggestion had in truth originated in secret and personal confidences made by Abédine Pasha to each of the Ambassadors in turn at Constantinople.

On discovering the misunderstanding which had thus arisen, he had telegraphed to Count Hatzfeldt to say that he perfectly well understood that Mr. Goschen had made no proposition or suggestion for a compromise as to Janina, and to request the Count to explain this to Her Majesty's Ambassador without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 509.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 373.) *Berlin, August 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 358 of this day's date, I have now received a private note from Prince Hohenlohe, stating that the German Government has no objections to make to the proposed draft of rejoinder to the Porte on the subject of the Greek question which your Lordship instructed me by telegraph to submit to his Highness on the 13th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 510.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 375.) *Berlin, August 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

WHEN I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, I found his Highness already informed about the Austrian modification to the Franco-Italian proposal respecting Montenegro, communicated to me in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

Prince Hohenlohe said that the German Government were ready to accept either proposal, as soon as Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia were agreed with the other Powers on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 511.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—Received August 23.)

(No. 377. Confidential.) *Berlin, August 19, 1880.*

My Lord,

HAVING seen in the newspapers that Herr von Wettendorf had returned to Constantinople with a staff of German financiers and clerks for the reorganization of the Turkish

Exchequer, I asked Prince Hohenlohe whether he could give me any further information on the subject.

His Highness, however, did not seem to know much about the matter, and could not tell me either their number or their qualifications. The only thing, he said, he knew for certain, was that no officers or military men had been sent, nor would any be sent in the future, so long as pending questions had not been definitively settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 512.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 767.) *Paris, August 22, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch to your Lordship from the Acting British Consul at Brest,* which has reached me under flying seal, and which reports the arrival there, on the 20th instant, of the French Mediterranean squadron.

The "Patrie" of yesterday evening contains the following paragraph:—

"Une dépêche Ministérielle a donné l'ordre aux cuirassés le 'Friedland' et le 'Suffren,' et à l'aviso 'l'Hirondelle,' d'appareiller ce soir.

"La destination indiquée à ces bâtiments est les mers du Levant."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 513.

Pro-memorid communicated by M. Hengelmüller, August 23, 1880.

(Confidential.)

BARON HAYMERLE desires me to tell Lord Granville once more that our proposition with regard to the modification of the self-denial Protocol rests upon no other motive but on the desire to define the matter in question as clearly and precisely as possible. Such clearness and preciseness ought certainly always to be aimed at in all diplomatic negotiations. The terms "any arrangements" Baron Haymerle thinks too vague.

The change of front of Turkey in the Dulcigno question is a new demonstration of the necessity of using clear and definite language.

If the Powers had not, in order to be agreeable to M. de Novikow, put their demand in so vague a shape, Turkey would not have found it so easy to raise all sorts of subsequent objections.

Belgrave Square, August 21, 1880.

No. 514.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{9}{21}$ Août, 1880.*

DE même que nous, le Cabinet de Vienne pense:—

(1.) Que l'Angleterre devrait rédiger et soumettre aux Cabinets la nouvelle réponse collective.

(2.) Que la Porte, comme preuve de sa sincérité, doit remettre de suite Dulcigno au Monténégro; et

(3.) Que la sommation doit être maintenue.

Toutefois, les cuirassés Austro-Hongrois, se trouvant à portée de Dulcigno, ne seront pas envoyés à Palerme, et le Cabinet de Vienne propose Raguse comme point de ralliement, au lieu de Cattaro, peu favorable au ravitaillement.

En même temps, Kállay fait observer qu'il est matériellement impossible que la démonstration navale soit complète pour le 24, sans cependant proposer une prolongation formelle du terme.

* Mr. Macleod, August 20.

Cette dernière observation nous paraît avoir peu d'importance. Il suffirait d'annoncer le commencement de la démonstration à la Porte dans le délai fixé, sans suspendre les préparatifs.

Désirons connaître opinion de Lord Granville.

No. 515.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August* 23.)

Le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Août*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LORD DUFFERIN nous a communiqué les instructions données à l'Amiral Anglais.

Nous les approuvons en principe, et penchons pour la seconde alternative de la dépêche de Lord Granville, c'est-à-dire que le Commandant ayant le rang supérieur prenne le Commandement des escadres, en consultant les autres Amiraux dans toutes les questions d'un caractère politique.

L'Empereur m'a ordonné de m'entendre avec Mgr. le Grand Amiral sur les instructions à donner au Commandant de nos forces navales. Aussitôt que nous serons convenus de leur rédaction définitive, je ne manquerai pas de vous les transmettre.

No. 516.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August* 23.)

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Août*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

NOUS venons d'envoyer, par télégraphe, au Contre-Amiral Kraemer, qui est au Pirée, l'ordre de se rendre avec son bâtiment soit à Cattaro soit à Raguse, de se joindre à l'Amiral Anglais, et de se mettre d'accord avec lui pour tout ce qui concerne la démonstration navale.

Les instructions à Kraemer seront identiques à celles que recevra l'Amiral Anglais.

Deux autres navires de guerre iront rejoindre celui de Kraemer.

Dites-nous si l'adhésion des autres Cabinets est déjà parvenue à Londres?

No. 517.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, August 22, 1880.

MONTENEGRIN Minister for Foreign Affairs having inquired of me what was being done by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the expected settlement, I replied that I presumed all the Powers must be considered to be acting together, and that if they should find the objection of the Porte to the cession of Dinosi just, the Prince would not put himself in opposition to their will, a supposition confirmed to your Lordship by the information reaching you from Lord Dufferin.

I have now received a communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, saying that I am entirely in the wrong in supposing that Prince Nicholas would give way in the slightest degree, and that His Highness holds strictly to the line traced by me in my note of the 13th June. Should any modification be attempted, His Highness would withdraw his adhesion, as he had accepted the line on the sole understanding that it should not be altered. Inquiries have been made of St. Petersburgh how any other impression can there exist on this subject.

I am still of opinion that the Powers can very well overlook this species of dictation from the Prince of Montenegro, and that the Representatives of Austria and Russia in the Principality have sufficient influence to make His Highness submit himself to whatever decision may be arrived at.

I have simply acknowledged receipt of the Montenegrin communication.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 518.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, August 22, 1880.

RIZA PASHA called on me this afternoon, and I found him less decided than yesterday, although he still says that he has not yet received instructions about Dulcigno. He, however, begged me as a personal favour to make known his prayer that he should not, as a Mahommedan, be called upon to effect the surrender during Ramadan and the feast of [? Bairam], that is to say, not before three weeks.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 519.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, August 22, 1880.

THE Emperor approves of the instructions drafted for Admiral. His Majesty is willing that the international fleet should be under the command of the senior Admiral on the understanding that he is to act in consultation with the other Admirals in all political questions. Instructions in the sense desired will be sent to Rear-Admiral Cremer, now stationed at the Piræus. The Russian squadron will consist of three ships.

At the instance of the Russian Admiralty, M. de Giers is unwilling to send squadron to Palermo, and proposes that either Cattaro or Ragusa should be the place of rendezvous. He thinks it is a pity the demonstration cannot take place on the 24th August, and considers that a notification should be communicated to the Porte to the effect that, the term fixed by the collective note having expired, a naval demonstration will take place, and that preparations for its execution have commenced.

No. 520.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, August 22, 1880.

I HAVE communicated your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who hopes to be able to answer them by to-morrow.

No. 521.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 542.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 23, 1880, 3 P.M.

YOURS No. 140.

Her Majesty's Government have anticipated M. de Giers' suggestion as to formulating a proposal, and telegraphed a proposal to the Powers on Saturday, which they hope will be acceptable to the Russian Government.

No. 522.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23, 5 P.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, August 23, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 406.

French Ambassador in London has telegraphed substance of two proposed telegrams to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

French Government have answered, by telegraph, that they agree with the Cabinets that the Porte should be required to give a guarantee of sincerity by commencing at once the cession of Dulcigno. If she refuses they would not hesitate to join their ships

to get the better of her ill-will by a naval demonstration before the seaboard claimed by Montenegro.

But if Turkey, by commencement of a voluntary and loyal execution of the cession of Dulcigno, gives proof of good faith, it would be impossible for the French Government to give the assistance of their ships to obtain from her the abandonment of certain problematical points on the other side of the Lake of Scutari, the cession of which has not been clearly stipulated, either in the note of the 3rd August or in that of the 26th June.

Therefore French Government cannot accept the word "completeness" in the first of the proposed telegrams, though they can accept the word "rapidity."

Particulars by this evening's messenger.

No. 523.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 427.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880, 5 P.M.

THANKS for your telegram No. 183.

I think Lord E. Fitzmaurice could not dissociate himself from his colleagues in regard to the recommendation as to Albania.

I have telegraphed to him to say so.

No. 524.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

I CONCUR in views stated in your No. 47.

Please let me have the exact recommendation made as to Albania in pretty full detail when actually settled.

No. 525.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880, 8 P.M.

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires has read me a telegram from the Porte expressing surprise and regret at news of intended naval demonstration after their consent to the cession of Dulcigno, by which the object in view is already attained.

I said I could not discuss matters which were under the consideration of all the Powers, but that if there was a misunderstanding, and Turkey was ready to cede at once the territory described in the memorandum which had been communicated unofficially to the Porte as indicating the proposed frontier, I should have the greatest pleasure in communicating this wise determination to the other Powers, and I took upon myself to say that it would be accepted by them as a complete and satisfactory termination of the Montenegrin difficulty.

No. 526.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

I APPROVE your language and answer to Montenegrin communication reported in your telegram No. 77.

No. 527.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23, 11 P.M.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

I HAVE just communicated to M. de Giers your proposed instructions to Mr. Goschen forwarded to me in your telegrams Nos. 538 and 539 of the 21st August in reference to the Montenegrin question. Though M. de Giers will be obliged to submit the matter formally to the Emperor, he has little doubt His Majesty will agree to send instructions in a similar sense to M. de Novikoff.

No. 528.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 23, 11 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

IT is only to-day that I have been able to submit to M. de Giers your proposed rejoinder about Greek frontier telegraphed in your No. 532. He has no doubt that the Emperor will authorize M. de Novikoff to sign.

No. 529.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 551.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880, 11 P.M.

THE Austrian Government have thrown open their ports for the combined European fleet. It would be inconvenient to them to send their contingent to Palermo, and they think Ragusa preferable to Cattaro for the rendezvous.

Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree, and would suggest that those Powers who cannot conveniently send their ships to Palermo should meet the others at Ragusa.

No. 530.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.†

(No. 400.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram which he had received from the Porte, expressing surprise and regret at hearing the news of the proposed naval demonstration by the Powers, notwithstanding that the Turkish Government had consented to the cession of Dulcigno, by which the object in view was already attained.

I replied to Musurus Bey that I could not discuss matters which were under the consideration of all the Powers, but that if the intention of Turkey had been misunderstood, and she were really prepared to cede at once the territory described in the memorandum which had been unofficially communicated to the Porte as indicating the proposed frontier, I should have the greatest pleasure in making known this wise decision to the other Powers, and I took upon myself to say that it would be accepted by them as a complete and satisfactory termination of the Montenegrin difficulty.

I have transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Adams (No. 416), Lord Odo Russell (No. 450), Sir H. Elliot (No. 502), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 492).

† Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Adams, Mr. Macdonell, the Earl of Dufferin, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, and Mr. Kirby Green.

No. 531.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 93.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1880.*

Sir,

I LEARN by your telegram No. 77 of yesterday, that in reply to an inquiry from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the action of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the settlement of the frontier question, you reminded him that the Powers were acting together, and expressed a hope that the Prince would conform to their wishes, if it was determined not to press for the cession of Dinosi. I have expressed my approval of your language by telegraph, and I also approve your having confined yourself to a mere acknowledgment of the note which you subsequently received from the Minister, declaring that the Prince would not accept any modification of the frontier line already proposed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 532.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE authorized your Lordship by telegraph to join the French, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners in their scheme for the future government of Upper Albania, and I have to request you to furnish me with a statement in full detail of the exact recommendation which it is proposed to make to the Porte with regard to these districts as soon as it has been actually settled by the Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 533.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 417.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 418 of the 21st instant, I forwarded the draft of a proposed telegraphic communication to Mr. Goschen, in reply to the Porte's note of the 18th August respecting the Montenegrin frontier, which anticipates the suggestion made to your Excellency by M. de Giers, and reported by you in your telegram No. 140 of the 21st instant, that a proposal to this effect should be formulated by Her Majesty's Government. I trust that this proposal will be acceptable to the Russian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 534.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.[*]

(No. 1174.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1880.*

Sir,

IT has been intimated to me that the Austrian Government have thrown open their ports for the combined European fleet, which it is proposed should eventually proceed to the Duleigno coast.

They have further represented that it would be inconvenient to them to send their contingent to Palermo; and that they consider Ragusa would be preferable to Cattaro for the rendezvous.

Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree to the above arrangement, and would suggest that those Powers who cannot conveniently send their ships to Palermo should dispatch them to Ragusa, where they would meet those of the other Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[*] Also to the Earl of Dufferin, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and Mr. Macdonell.

No. 535.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1175. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1880.*

Sir,

THE French Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and spoke to me on the present position of the Montenegrin frontier question. His Excellency said that his Government earnestly desired to see it settled, and were anxious for the continued accord of the Powers.

But they thought that the new proposal of the Turkish Government modified to a material extent the position of things. They felt that the naval demonstration might be the first commencement of a crisis, of which it was impossible to foresee the consequences, and they considered that Turkey ought not to be met with an ultimatum if she gives proof of her good faith by the cession of Duleigno.

The French Government could not, therefore, he said, agree to the expression used in the draft instruction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, which held the Porte to the "complete" execution of the Duleigno arrangement.

They could not join in any action having for its sole object the cession of certain problematical points which are not specified in the collective note of the 3rd August, nor in the previous note of the 26th June. In their opinion it would be reasonable to accept the cession of Duleigno if there was evidence of good faith on the part of the Turkish authorities in carrying it into execution. On the other hand, if the Porte did not give proof of good faith by proceeding at once to the execution of its own proposal, then, and in the face of such a fact, the French Government would not refuse to join in a naval demonstration.

I told M. Challemel-Lacour that I entirely agreed with him as to the importance of a speedy conclusion to the Montenegrin question, and of the continued accord of the Powers. But I thought it could not fail to be detrimental to both these objects if at the outset we were to give evidence that the opposition of the Porte was sufficient to deter us from adhering to the position which had been taken up by all the Powers.

I reminded his Excellency that, before consulting my colleagues on Saturday, I had asked him whether I had rightly understood from him that as regards France—as I knew was the case with other Powers—although she was inclined to make concessions in regard to Dinosi, yet that in order to maintain the accord of the Powers she was ready, if others desired it, to adhere to the programme of the collective note, and that he had assured me that this was so.

I said that the reason we had proposed the instructions to the Ambassadors in the sense already known to his Government was that the written reply of the Porte to the collective note contained a proposal different from that made verbally by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Ambassadors, and asked, moreover, for an indefinite delay. The new proposal would reopen all the questions as to the line of frontier east of the Lake of Scutari which had been in discussion last year, and which led to the necessity for the Corti arrangement. It might indeed be true that the Turks, encouraged by a notion which any hesitation in our present action would tend to strengthen, were declaring their determination to resist, but I did not anticipate such results from a naval demonstration as he had sketched out.

As regards the unwisdom of placing an ultimatum before Turkey, I said I believed that the only way of dealing with that country was to settle what Europe required, as we had done, and then to remain firm in our position. As to the objection that the points in question had not been laid down in the notes of the 26th June and of the 3rd August, this did not appear to me to bear upon the question, as an exact description of the limits of the Duleigno proposal had been placed in the hands of the Turkish Ministers.

I added that I feared that vacillation at this early stage of the proceedings would have the most unfortunate effect upon the Turks in creating an impression as to the possible extent to which opposition on their part might be successful in driving back the Powers of Europe from their resolutions.

I told his Excellency that the observations I had made conveyed merely the personal impression which this unexpected answer of his Government had made upon me, but that I would consult my colleagues on the subject. In the meanwhile I begged him to press upon his Government the importance in any case of not allowing the Porte to become aware that there was a shade of difference between us.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 536.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 473.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880.

Sir,

AT the conclusion of our conversation on the Turkish negotiations this afternoon, the Italian Ambassador informed me that his Government were ready to join in the reply to the Porte on the Greek frontier question as drafted by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 537.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 474.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and told me that he was able to give the most complete denial to the rumours which I had mentioned to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires as to a tendency on the part of the Italian Government to separate themselves from the other Powers in the negotiations with Turkey, or as to indiscreet revelations having been made by them to the Turkish Government of the discussions between the several Governments.

His Excellency said that the reports of the Turkish Representatives at the various capitals were inter-communicated and compared, that it was not difficult in this manner to trace certain divergences of language, and that the Turkish Ministers and their Agents took advantage of any opportunity to create the impression that they were better informed than was really the fact; that in the same way rumours were often spread about of intimacies between States, concerning which there was no truth, although it sometimes happened that it was convenient to one of the States to countenance such rumours. He assured me that the Italian Government were quite unshaken in their wish to maintain the concert between the Powers, and that there was no country with which they were more anxious to act in accord than England.

I said I was glad to receive these assurances; that I had myself supposed that both on account of long-standing friendship and sympathy, and as a natural outcome of our general identity of views and objects, we could count unhesitatingly on the support of Italy. I had therefore been unpleasantly surprised when reports had reached me, which seemed authentic, of the complete knowledge possessed by the Turkish Minister at Rome of all that passed between the Powers, and even of language having been held in some quarters encouraging the belief that Italy would be prepared to incline to a course favourable to the Porte in return for corresponding advantages.

General Menabrea repeated his assurances. He told me that the Italian Government were ready to send ships to Palermo to join in the naval demonstration off Dulcigno, that they concurred generally in the tenour of the draft instructions to the commanding officers which had been forwarded for their concurrence, and they would wish that the command of the combined fleet should be left to the senior Admiral.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 538.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 74.) *Buyukdéré, August* 4, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 33 of the 24th ultimo, forwarding the Projet de Loi presented to the Commission, I have the honour to inclose copies of the amendments suggested by the local Commissions at Monastir, Kossovo, and Janina, respectively. I have already, in my despatches Nos. 48 and 49 of the 11th ultimo, furnished your Lordship with the Reports from Adrianople and Salonica.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 538.

Amendments proposed by Special Commission at Monastir.

ARTICLE 4. La police ne devra pas être autorisé à avoir un mandat d'un Tribunal quelconque pour arrêter un accusé criminel ou une personne soupçonnée. Le délai à être accordé à ces personnes sera de six jours.

Art. 20. Personne ne pourra devenir Sous-Gouverneur, Gouverneur, ou Gouverneur-Général dans son propre pays.

Art. 21. Il ne sera pas permis de donner des Jugements rendus par les Tribunaux dans la langue officielle sans une traduction certifiée conforme à la langue de la majorité des habitants du pays.

Art. 30. Le Gouverneur-Général aura le droit de destituer tout officier de gendarmerie, jusqu'au grade de Colonel, qui aura commis une faute, et de demander son remplacement. Il pourra nommer des sous-officiers et officiers jusqu'au grade de Major.

Art. 47. Il est inutile de nommer de Directeur de la Justice et des Alaï Beys, où les Colonels de gendarmerie ne doivent point devenir membres des Conseils d'Administration.

Art. 55. Il ne faut pas nommer de Directeur de la Justice.

Art. 58. Il semble convenable de faire dépendre du Ministère des Travaux Publics les employés chargés du recensement des populations, et de réunir en un seul bureau les Bureaux du Cadastre et des Archives ("Defter Hakani").

Art. 59. Les élèves seront examinés par le corps enseignant des écoles. Après ces examens ils recevront leurs diplômes, mais ces diplômes devront être confirmés par le Directeur des Travaux Publics (de l'Instruction Publique?).

Art 61. De ne publier les annuaires que présentera le Directeur des Travaux Publics qu'après avoir été approuvés par les Conseils d'Administration des vilayets.

Art. 69. Le tirage au sort pour le renouvellement des membres du Conseil Général aura lieu séparément entre les deux membres élus dans chaque circonscription territoriale.

Art. 101. Il est nécessaire de faire confirmir par le Conseil d'Administration, le Directeur de l'Imprimerie et les Rédacteurs des Journaux, lesquels doivent être des personnes capables.

Art. 108. Insérer à la fin: "Quand ils ne seraient pas conformes à l'avis de ce Conseil."

Art. 100. Après les mots "des ordres qu'il reçoit du Vali," d'ajouter, "en conformité de ces lois et règlements."

Art. 116 (*j*). Ne pas autoriser d'emprunts pour le compte des villes ou municipalités.

(*l.*) Il semble qu'il y a erreur dans ce paragraphe, erreur qu'il faudra rectifier.

(*o.*) La procédure mentionnée dans ce paragraphe ne sera mise en exécution qu'après avoir été approuvé par le Conseil d'Administration du liva.

(*q.*) La procédure. Ditto.

2e *Tableau* (*c*).—Il semble qu'il y ait erreur dans ce paragraphe. La rectifier.

3e *Tableau*, (*a*), (*b*), (*c*).—Les attributions mentionnées dans ces trois paragraphes ne seront mises à exécution qu'après avoir obtenu l'approbation du Conseil d'Administration.

4e *Tableau*, (*d*).—Si on entend par règlement existant de simples règlements d'un ordre spécial, il n'y faudrait les modifier qu'avec l'assentiment des Conseils d'Administration. Quant aux attributions visées dans les autres paragraphes, elles ne seront également exercées qu'avec l'approbation de ces mêmes Conseils.

Art. 117. Les Chefs spirituels siégeant en permanence dans les Conseils Administratifs devront être ceux qui sont officiellement reconnus par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 130. Ajouter:—"Au Vali d'abord et au Ministère de l'Intérieur ensuite."

Art. 137. Substituer le mot "nahié" au mot "caza" et les mots "quelques corps de troupes" aux mots "une force militaire suffisante."

Art 144, (*e*). L'exercice des attributions portées aux paragraphes (*e*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*), (*i*), (*j*), ne devrait avoir lieu qu'avec l'approbation du Conseil d'Administration du caza. Les attributions visées par les paragraphes (*k*), (*l*), (*m*), (*n*), devraient être déférées aux Conseils des Communautés. Le Caïmacam n'aurait dans ce cas qu'un droit de surveillance sur l'exercice de ses attributions.

Art. 159. Rejeter l'octroi.

Art, 163. Substituer:—"Les Mudirs des nahiés seront convenablement rétribués

et choisis en dehors du nahié. Un Secrétaire rétribué et des zaptiehs en nombre suffisant leur seront adjoints.

Vu l'inutilité d'avoir une Caisse publique, les revenus du fisc perçu seront versés à la Caisse du chef-lieu du caza par les soins d'un Percepteur, sous la surveillance du Mudir.

Art. 173. Définir l'espèce de l'impôt qui sera prélevé par l'addition de 2 paras pour piastre.

Art. 177. Ajouter:—"Dans le cas où les Mouktars n'auront pas été désignés par les communautés avant le 15 Mars, les Conseils Municipaux et des Anciens du caza les choisiront.

Art. 219. Changer l'expression de "Conseil de Liva" à celle de "Conseil d'Administration du vilayet."

Art. 222. "Pour l'élection des membres du Conseil d'Administration on fera venir deux électeurs de chaque nahié, qui, conjointement avec les membres des Conseils Municipaux du caza, et des membres élus du Conseil de Déavi, formeront un Comité Electoral. L'élection dans ce Comité se fera au scrutin secret. Lors de l'élection des membres du Conseil-Général du vilayet, les électeurs choisis parmi les membres élus des Conseils d'Administration des cazas devront également être admis au sein du Comité Electoral pour prendre part au vote.

Art. 234. Substituer: "Les Gouverneurs et les Gouverneurs-Généraux auront le droit de contrôler les actes purement criminels des Tribunaux de cette catégorie. Le Gouverneur, lorsqu'il n'aura pas approuvé la mise en liberté d'un détenu, qu'une sentence illégale aura condamné, devra en référer au Gouverneur-Général, lequel fera de même auprès des Départements compétents. Tous deux auront le droit de détenir le libéré jusqu'à l'arrivée des instructions supérieures."

Art. 250. Adopter le mode suivant pour la nomination des Mutessarifs: "l'un des trois Mutessarifs choisis par le Vali sera nommé par la Sublime Porte.

Art. 259. Ajouter: "Les fonctionnaires diplômés par des écoles n'auront la préférence sur ceux inscrits pour être nouvellement élus qu'en ce qui concerne les capacités."

Art. 321. Il est nécessaire que le programme relatif aux dessèchements des marais, qui sera préparé par le Directeur des Travaux Publics, soit approuvé par le Conseil Général du vilayet.

Art. 338. Ne pas s'opposer à la coupe des arbres qu'on ne peut utiliser pour les besoins publiques.

Art. 344. A l'effet de protéger la réproduction des poissons en dehors des époques déterminées, ne pas en autoriser la pêche, ni donner des permis exceptionnels.

Art. 378. Préciser que la décision à être arrêtée par la Sublime Porte ne sera pas appliquée pour les constructions en voie d'exécution, mais elle sera valable pour celles à exécuter plus tard.

Art. 400. Ne pas déduire de leurs services les journées que les prestataires pourraient perdre sur les voies en construction.

Art. 411. Les droits revenant aux Percepteurs ayant été modifiés dans son règlement, il faut supprimer les Percepteurs en Chefs de sandjaks. Dans les endroits où l'assistance des zaptiehs est nécessaire pour la perception des impôts, on les chargera de cette besogne, en leur allouant la moitié des droits revenant aux Percepteurs.

Art. 414. Ne pas créer seulement dans les cazas les dépôts pour contenir les produits des dîmes, mais bien en construire aussi, suivant le besoin, dans quelques chefs-lieux de nahiés.

Inclosure 2 in No. 538.

Amendments proposed by Special Commission at Kossovo.

ARTICLE 43. Ajouter au bas de cet Article que les officiers supérieurs ou subalternes qui, disposant d'une force suffisante, n'exécuteront pas pour des motifs d'intérêt personnel ou pour tout autre motif, les ordres officiels à eux donnés seront tenus responsables.

Art. 48. Ajouter: "et des membres désignés par la population. Le Conseil aura un Secrétariat spécial."

Art. 50. Ajouter: "Ils auront à exécuter les ordres et les instructions à eux donnés, et qui seraient conformes aux lois et règlements."

Art. 97. Les fonctions de membres du Conseil Permanent devant être honoraire, il serait de toute impossibilité de former ici un pareil Conseil; en conséquence, ainsi qu'il a été dit au paragraphe 2, il sera plus pratique que les membres élus par le Conseil Général soient adjoints au Conseil Administratif en lieu et place du Conseil Permanent.

Art. 137. Substituer pour les mots "Si un besoin," &c., les mots suivants: "Dans le cas où un besoin pressant obligerait le Caïmacam, pour préserver la sécurité et la tranquillité publiques, à réclamer l'assistance des officiers commandant la gendarmerie et les rédifs, et que les officiers viendraient à refuser leur concours et à donner lieu par ce refus à une recrudescence de troubles et de désordres dans le pays, ils seront dans ce cas," &c.

Art. 155. "Le Gouverneur-Général pourra dissoudre les Conseils Municipaux lorsqu'il aura été démontré que ceux-ci agissent contre la légalité et cherchent à troubler la tranquillité publique. En dehors de ces deux cas ces Conseils ne seront dissouts par le Vali que sur un avis conforme du Conseil d'Administration du vilayet. L'Ordonnance de la dissolution sera motivée."

Art. 163. Les membres devraient être rétribués comme les Caïmacams et les Mutessarifs. Ils devraient être lettrés et connaître la langue officielle et les lois et règlements de l'Empire.

Art. 229. Les populations des autres rites ne pouvant servir qu'en qualité de rapporteur, il faut supprimer le paragraphe concernant le témoignage. Les règlements sur le "hardj" doit être modifié.

Faire donner par les créanciers des journées à leurs débiteurs, lorsqu'ils demandent leur emprisonnement, pouvant léser les intérêts des créanciers. Il faut aussi supprimer de tout règlement le paragraphe ayant trait à ce fait.

Art. 239. Ajouter: "Avec la restriction d'être sujet Ottoman."

Art. 249. Ajouter: "Si son incapacité est reconnue devant un Conseil officiel tenu au liva et au vilayet."

La retenue de 5 pour cent sur les appointements mentionnés dans la loi, portant le titre de "Retraite," forme un chiffre supérieur à celui de 1 pour cent et de 2 pour cent déterminé par le Règlement sur la retraite concernant les militaires, les agents de police, et les employés du télégraphe; et les délais fixés au fonctionnaire civil pour avoir droit à la retraite étant également d'une durée trop longue, il est nécessaire de modifier ce Règlement.

Art. 359. Insérer dans cet Article l'obligation pour le Moukhtar, ou le Collecteur, de remettre contre reçu à l'Inspecteur des Routes, les sommes provenant du remplacement des prestataires.

Art. 396. Il est nécessaire d'ajouter des Articles spéciaux déterminant le degré de responsabilité et de punition des ingénieurs, des conducteurs, et des contre-maîtres, dans le cas où ils négligeraient leurs devoirs, et commettraient des abus, tels que les dispenses qu'ils pourraient accorder aux prestataires, car plus tard les constructions commencées resteraient inachevées, et ces employés feraient tomber la faute aux ouvriers en alléguant des prétextes quelconques.

Art. 400. Ne pas tenir compte aux prestataires sur leurs services des distances qu'ils auront à parcourir pour se rendre aux lieux de la construction des travaux.

Inclosure 3 in No. 538.

Amendments proposed by Special Commission at Janina.

ARTICLE 5. "Les Métropolitains et les Evêques jugeront celles des affaires qui ont été déférées à leur juridiction par des brevets et Firmans Impériaux."

Art. 13. Pour "valeur convenable," substituer "valeur réelle."

Art. 20. Ajouter: "La condition essentielle d'occuper les postes de Gouverneur et de Sous-Gouverneur sera celle de connaître la langue du pays, c'est-à-dire la langue de la majorité des habitants de ce pays. Le propriétaire d'une ferme ne pourra occuper le poste de Sous-Gouverneur dans le canton où cette ferme est située. Les parents des Gouverneurs ne seront pas nommés Sous-Gouverneurs dans la circonscription territoriale administrée par ces mêmes Gouverneurs."

Art. 21. La proposition faite par les membres Chrétiens de faire rédiger dans les

langues officielles, et du pays, les requêtes, pétitions, et toutes les pièces qui doivent être remises aux Tribunaux, les procès-verbaux, qui y seront tenus, ainsi que les sentences et les mazbatas qui en émaneront, a été repoussée par l'autre partie des membres, mais elle est toujours soutenue par les premiers, qui demandent la soumission de l'affaire à l'appréciation du Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 22. Une partie des membres desire remplacer cet Article par l'Article 14 de la Constitution; d'autres veulent substituer au mot "reconnaître" celle de "élu par la majorité des populations. Une troisième fraction est d'avis de maintenir le texte de cet Article.

Art. 25. La proposition faite que le Gouverneur-Général, aussi bien que les Gouverneurs et Sous-Gouverneurs, doit connaître la langue du pays, sans en être originaire, n'a pas été acceptée par la majorité. Il a été laissé aux soins du Gouvernement Impérial de trancher cette question.

Art. 31. Supprimer.

Art. 33. "Le Vali pourra permettre sans demander au préalable l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte, la formation des Sociétés Anonymes, classées dans les Tableaux qui seront préparés et expédiés par les Ministres du Commerce et des Travaux Publics."

Art. 39. "Les Gouverneurs-Généraux par l'entremise des Directeurs de l'Instruction Publique auront la surveillance des écoles. Ils empêcheront les abus qui viendraient à se commettre contre les lois et règlements se rattachant à la politique, aux cultes, et aux bonnes mœurs. En assurant la liberté de l'enseignement ils protégeront la propagation de l'instruction publique et son application régulière.

Art. 59. Il est porté à la connaissance du Gouvernement Impérial que pour ce qui concerne les dispositions contenues dans les Articles depuis 59 jusqu'à 63, ayant trait aux écoles et établissements de bienfaisance, le Gouvernement Impérial doit se borner, comme par le passé, à surveiller l'application des lois et règlements, et à empêcher que des faits nuisant à l'enseignement ou pouvant troubler le bon ordre, la tranquillité publique, et les bonnes mœurs. Il ne doit pas être aussi porté atteinte aux immunités spécialement accordées par des brevets et des Firmans Impériaux.

Art. 92. Ajouter: "Les plaintes formulées sont prises en considération par les Départements compétents, et recevront promptement, dans le cas où elles seraient conformes au Règlement, la suite qu'elles comportent."

Art. 96. Ajouter: "Chacun des membres du Comité Permanent recevra un traitement mensuel de 1,500 piastres."

Art. 116. (*b*) "Les Métropolitains et les Evêques auront le droit de juger les affaires qui sont spécifiées dans les brevets et les Firmans Impériaux à eux accordés."

Art. 117. Il est laissé à la décision du Gouvernement Impérial d'ajouter un paragraphe autorisant les Chefs spirituels à siéger comme les Muftis dans les Conseils d'Administration, et de supprimer la qualification de Musulmans et non-Musulmans.

Art. 144. (*b*) Substituer: "Les Métropolitains et les Evêques auront le droit de juger les affaires spécifiées dans les brevets et Firmans Impériaux à eux accordés par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 148. Les Conseils de Communautés doivent être autorisés, lors de la contestation de l'incapacité et de la mauvaise gestion d'un Administrateur Spécial de Biens Dédiés ("Mutevelli-i-Vakouf") à demander sa destitution par un Mazbata à l'Administration ou au Tribunal compétent. Ils sont tenus de faire connaître au Département la capacité ou l'incapacité de la personne à qui on doit confier les fonctions de Mutevelli. Ils doivent également porter à la connaissance de ce Département, après consultation faite, la prodigalité et la mauvaise administration exercées par le Mutevelli sur les biens et les immeubles confiés à sa gestion, afin de provoquer l'interdiction de ce dernier. Et comme le mandat spécial des Conseils de Communautés consiste d'assurer la bonne gestion des biens dédiés ("vakoufs"), les Mutevellis, ainsi que leurs parents au premier et deuxième degré, devraient être exclus du Conseil de Communauté. Ces Conseils auraient également le droit d'examiner les comptes relatifs aux biens vacoufs, relevant de leurs communautés. Ils seront en outre autorisés à s'adresser au besoin aux autorités locales pour les affaires qui intéressent leurs communautés respectives, et à vérifier la comptabilité des biens dédiés relevant de leur propre communauté.

Art. 162. Ajouter: "Les Mudirs des Nahiés devant être chargés de la perception des impôts, les émoluments des Receveurs leur seront attribués. Les autres dépenses justifiées du nahié seront payées sur les recettes de la Caisse Municipale, quant aux appointements des zaptiehs et des fonctionnaires publics ils seront acquittés par le Gouvernement."

Art. 250. Substituer pour la nomination des Caïmacams: "Les Caïmacams

doivent être choisis et nommés directement par le Vali. La Sublime Porte devra, en tout cas, ratifier ce choix.

Art. 259. La préférence sera donnée à ceux qui auront des diplômes attestant leur bonne conduite, leurs capacités, et l'état de leur service.

Art. 311. "La prise d'eau est libre, mais il est indispensable d'obtenir l'autorisation du Gouvernement dans le cas où on voudrait construire des fabriques et des moulins."

Art. 324. Ajouter: "Cette contribution sera obligatoire."

Art. 325. Le propriétaire des fôrets doit être frappé d'une amende pour ce qui touche les Articles depuis 325 à 338.

Art. 350. Ainsi qu'il a été mentionné dans les Articles 350 à 409, les grandes routes seront construites par des Compagnies; les villageois seront astreints à titre obligatoire de faire celles allant de nahié en nahié, ou bien de village en village. Les Conseils de Communauté des nahiés prépareront le mode à adopter à cet effet.

Art. 410. L'Administration en régie des dîmes causant des pertes, il faut changer ce système. La modification sera faite suivant la décision qui sera arrêtée par le Conseil Général.

Art. 419. Ajouter: "Ainsi qu'il a été pratiqué jusqu'ici."

Art. 424. Ajouter: "Avec la faculté de faire appel devant le Conseil du Liva."

Art. 425. Ajouter: "Pouvant faire appel devant le Conseil du Liva."

Art. 428. Substituer pour les mots "quarante-huit heures," les mots "cinq jours."

No. 539.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 80.) *Bayuldéré, August* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Church has, I am told, been informed by the Porte that as it has been denounced by the Greek Orthodox Church as "schismatic," the Firman constituting the Exarchate is no longer valid, and that consequently, if the Exarch desires the investiture of his Bishops, he must first, in any case, abandon his present title, which presupposes the existence of communion with the Greek Orthodox Church, and must also adopt a distinctive costume. These steps have been taken by the Porte under pressure from the Greek Orthodox Clergy, who are greatly exasperated against the Commission for having added the Chapter "Des Cultes" to the new law.

I inclose an article from the "Phare du Bosphore" of the 14th August, setting forth the Orthodox view of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 539.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of August 14, 1880.

POUR compléter ce que nous avons dit dans un de nos précédents numéros au sujet des velléités de l'Exarque Bulgare, nous ajouterons aujourd'hui que cette question est à la fois politique et ecclésiatique; que son côté politique est suffisamment connu, et qu'il n'y a que les intéressés à la reconstitution de la Bulgarie de San Stéfano qui peuvent trouver inoffensive l'extension d'influence du clergé Bulgare sur la Thrace et sur la Macédoine. Quant au côté ecclésiastique il mérite quelque développement. L'Eglise Bulgare a été créée en vertu d'un Firman Impérial. Ce Firman prescrit que le Chef de cette Eglise reconnaîtra l'autorité spirituelle du Patriarcat œcuménique dont il est censé être le représentant. Le pouvoir civil intervenait par cet acte en vue de créer une Eglise dépendant spirituellement de l'Eglise d'Orient, reconnue par celle-ci et fonctionnant au nom du Patriarche œcuménique. Le Firman est donc basé sur une entente préalable entre le Chef de la grande Eglise et le clergé Bulgare et ne constitue en réalité que la sanction suprême de l'accord ecclésiastique.

Malheureusement cet accord, cette entente n'eurent point lieu; le clergé Bulgare, préoccupé de propagande politique et se faisant l'instrument d'une politique étrangère, voulut mettre la religion au service de cette politique et fonder une Eglise toute

spéciale, pouvant jouer le rôle que l'ambition étrangère lui assignait. Il était évident qu'une telle création devait constituer une contravention flagrante aux lois immuables de l'Eglise d'Orient et au caractère sacré dont elle est revêtue. Ce qui surtout était la pierre d'achoppement de l'entente, ce qui mettait le Patriarche dans l'impossibilité de reconnaître cette Eglise, c'était le dogme nouveau que le clergé Bulgare voulait introduire dans l'Eglise—le dogme du phylétisme.

Une explication est nécessaire là-dessus. D'après les canons ecclésiastiques l'Eglise ne peut être divisée par nationalités, mais uniquement par Etats ou provinces. Ce dogme est fondé sur les actes des Apôtres, où il est dit "qu'il n'y a ni Grec, ni Juif, ni mâle, ne femelle; mais que tous sont égaux devant Dieu."

Ainsi le Patriarcat admet une Eglise en Russie, une Eglise en Grèce, une Eglise en Roumanie; mais il n'admet point une Eglise Grecque ou une Eglise Russe. Or, pour être reconnue par le Patriarche l'Eglise à créer avait besoin de se constituer en Evêché avec plus ou moins de privilèges, mais dans des limites naturelles, soigneusement désignées, afin de ne point empiéter sur les droits des autres Evêchés.

Le Patriarcat demanda en conséquence à la Porte de désigner les limites de la Bulgarie dans lesquelles s'exercerait la juridiction de l'Exarchat. Mais une voix secrète disait au Grand Vizir d'alors, que délimiter une province Bulgare serait reconnaître *ipso facto* une Bulgarie, et il préféra insérer dans le Firman l'Article 10, où il est dit que la juridiction de l'Exarque s'étendra sur tous les pays habités par une population mixte, Grecque et Bulgare, dont les Bulgares formeraient les deux tiers. Ainsi, la Porte évitait l'écueil politique et rejetait la question sur l'écueil ecclésiastique; car en vertu de cet Article, le clergé Bulgare et derrière lui la diplomatie Russe réclamaient la création d'une Eglise Bulgare et non d'une Eglise en Bulgarie, c'est-à-dire d'une Eglise dont la juridiction devait s'étendre sur tous les pays habités par la race Bulgare. Le dogme du phylétisme était par-là introduit dans la religion, et celle-ci devenait l'instrument à l'aide duquel la politique étrangère dont il est question plus haut allait dénationaliser les Grecs de la Thrace et de la Macédoine.

Si l'on songe un instant à la considération dont jouissent les Evêques dans les provinces de l'Empire où ils sont accrédités pour ainsi dire en qualité d'Ambassadeurs du pouvoir ecclésiastique, si l'on prend en considération l'influence exercée par les agents de la politique protectrice des Bulgares, on se rendra facilement compte du danger qui a menacé un instant l'équilibre des races en Orient et l'existence de la nation Grecque du fait de la prétention formulée par les Bulgares, appuyée par une diplomatie alors toute-puissante et sanctionnée par le Firman Impérial.

Un seul moyen restait à l'Eglise pour déjouer toutes ces machinations et pour protéger sa propre existence, mise en péril par l'introduction dans son sein de dogmes contraires à ses lois fondamentales, c'était de proclamer le schisme.

Elle l'a fait, et dès ce jour l'acte du pouvoir civil, le Firman Impéral, est devenu lettre-morte, puisque l'entente n'a point été faite entre le Patriarcat et le clergé Bulgare; dès ce jour l'Exarchat Bulgare n'a plus existé légalement; car il n'est pas logique que l'Exarque Bulgare puisse représenter une autorité qui l'a renié et qui l'a rejeté hors du giron de l'Eglise. Il faut donc aujourd'hui que Sa Béatitude opte entre les deux termes de cette alternative: ou abjurer le phylétisme, renoncer à étendre son influence sur les contrées situées en dehors des limites de la principauté de Bulgarie, qui sera son diocèse, et se faire ainsi reconnaître par le Patriarche; ou persister dans le schisme, fonder une secte à part, complètement étrangère à l'Eglise d'Orient et, comme première conséquence, quitter l'habillement de prêtre Orthodoxe comme l'officier rayé des cadres d'une armée quitte l'uniforme de cette armée.

No. 540.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 81.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of the 10th instant, informing me that I am not to consent to the dissolution of the Commission at the termination of its present labours, as the Porte, under the Treaty, has a right to consult it at any time before promulgating the Acts, and it would be desirable, under any circumstances, that the Commission should be kept alive until the laws for all the European provinces have been definitely settled and proclaimed.

As I find that the majority of my colleagues do not seem to concur in this view, I have placed my opposition to the dissolution of the Commission on the ground that the Commission has no power to dissolve itself, but that the individual members can only inform their respective Governments that they have terminated their immediate task, viz., the presentation to the Porte of the "Avis" mentioned in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and that they must await further instructions from their Government, whose act, and not theirs, the dissolution of the Commission must be.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 541.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 14, 1880.

IN regard to the financial plan of the Commission, contained in Chapter 2 of Title IV of the amended law, I would wish to explain that the Ottoman Bank is under an obligation to establish branches at the "chef-lieu" of every vilayet on the demand of the Government. The Article relating to it is No. 6 of the "Acte de Concession, résultant des Conventions du 4 Février, 1863, et du 17 Février, 1875," and runs as follows:—

"Le siège social et le domicile de la Banque restent fixés à Constantinople.

"La Banque s'entendra avec le Gouvernement pour établir des succursales au siège de chaque vilayet de l'Empire, et les locaux nécessaires à cet effet seront mis gratuitement à la disposition de la Banque par le Gouvernement. La Banque pourra aussi établir, après entente préalable avec le Gouvernement, des agences, des comptoirs ou des correspondances dans les autres villes de l'Empire, suivant que l'exigeront ses besoins ou les intérêts du Trésor. La Banque pourra également établir des succursales des agences, des comptoirs, ou des correspondances à Paris, à Londres, à Vienne, et dans les autres villes importantes de l'Europe, suivant que l'exigeront ses besoins ou les intérêts du Trésor."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 542.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 14, 1880.

AS I have already informed your Lordship by telegraph, I have latterly come to the conclusion that, owing to the attitude of the majority of my colleagues, the sooner I was able to make some definite proposal in regard to Albania, the more likely was I to obtain some satisfactory result. They seem to me unwilling to propose the immediate formation of a large Albanian vilayet, though not altogether averse to making some suggestions in that direction. Even as to this, however, I am not so sure of their concurrence as I could wish to be.

The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner will support the idea of which, in the abstract, he approves, but only if the Turkish Government accepts it, and it is impossible at present to say what the views of the Porte on the subject are, as they vary from day to day. The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner saw Kadri Pasha yesterday, and was informed by him that it was the intention of the Porte to reform the existing distribution of the vilayets, and, this being so, that he hoped that the Commission would not intervene with suggestions which could only hamper the execution of the idea. These observations, however, resemble the arguments used on the subject of justice and gendarmerie too closely to carry much weight.

While, however, unwilling to commit themselves on the subject of Albania generally, the majority of the Commissioners are unanimously in favour of maintaining intact the liberties and privileges of the mountain tribes of upper Albania. M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner, who has an intimate personal knowledge of the district, has undertaken, with Baron de Kosjek, to prepare a draft plan, with the view of attaching it as an annex to the Report of the Commission. The general ideas resemble those of Mr. Green and M. Lippich, but he says he is quite

confident of being able to avoid the risk mentioned by me in my telegram No. 38 of the 6th instant of opposition being possibly aroused against the Commission, if, while professing to maintain the ancient privileges of the tribes, it in reality, through some inadvertence, interferes with or otherwise limits them.

I inclose the draft of a Report which I have circulated confidentially among my colleagues. The scheme for Upper Albania, referred to in it, is that of M. Aubaret and Baron de Kosjek. The whole subject is to be discussed at a private meeting of the Commissioners on Monday next, the 16th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 542.

Draft Report of Eastern Roumelian Commission, proposed by Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

NOUS, membres de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale, d'après le Traité conclu à Berlin le 13 Juillet, 1878, déclarons et constatons que le Règlement dont les dispositions suivent a été élaboré par nous en conformité à l'Article XXIII du dit Traité, qui est ainsi conçu :—

[Article XXIII.]

Tout en ayant voté le susdit Règlement, nous croyons devoir constater que la Sublime Porte ne s'est pas strictement conformée à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin; car au lieu de nommer des Commissions Spéciales, comme il y est recommandé, c'est la Sublime Porte elle-même qui a élaboré un Projet de Réformes qu'elle a plus tard soumis à des Commissions Spéciales, pour que, par elles, le susdit Projet fût amendé.

Pourtant, les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte ayant expliqué que leur Gouvernement avait agi de la sorte pour venir en aide aux Commissions Spéciales, et leur faciliter une tâche qui aurait été au-dessus de leurs moyens, nous avons accepté la discussion du Règlement, et des Mazbatas des Commissions Spéciales qui l'accompagnaient, et nous y avons apporté les modifications et les additions qui nous ont paru nécessaires, dans le but d'accorder aux provinces une large mesure de décentralisation administrative, tout en conservant l'unité de l'Empire Ottoman.

Le Règlement doit s'appliquer à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, exception faite de celles pour lesquelles une organisation particulière, en dehors de l'Article XXIII, a été prévue par le Traité de Berlin.

Les Iles de Lemnos, Hagiostrati, Samothrace, et Imbros, étant en Europe, quoique faisant partie aujourd'hui du vilayet des Iles de l'Archipel, dont le siège est en Asie, doivent jouir des droits accordés par la présente loi.

L'Ile de Thasos forme une partie du Vilayet de Salonique.

L'Ile de Samos étant en Asie n'entre pas dans les attributions de notre Commission.

Les Iles de Carpathos, Cazo, et Savia devront être jointes administrativement à l'Ile de Crête, et envoyer des Délégués à l'Assemblée de cette île.

La ville de Constantinople et sa banlieue ne nous paraissent pas inclus dans les termes de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin. Aucune Commission locale n'y a été convoquée, et ainsi la Commission dont nous faisons partie n'est en tout cas pas en position d'aborder la question de son administration.

Les districts auxquels le présent Règlement s'appliquera devront être réunis en vilayets ou en Mutessariliks indépendants. Comme le susdit Réglement établira dans chacun de ces Gouvernements une Administration organisée et un Conseil Général représentatif avec des pouvoirs législatifs et financiers étendus et un système régulier pour la comptabilité, il est du devoir de la Sublime Porte de fixer leurs limites sur une base solide et permanente, ayant regard seulement aux besoins de l'Administration et aux vœux des populations, et ainsi d'éviter les changements sans motifs devenus si frequents dans ces derniers temps.

Nous sommes d'avis que les pays Albanais devraient être réunis en quatre Gouvernements, dont les chefs-lieux seraient à Prisrend, Scutari, Elbassan, et Bérat, tout en maintenant les droits coutumiers, et acquis des tribus de la Haute-Albanie, ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans l'annexe à cet Avis, et les privilèges et immunités historiques de la Mirditie et de la Chimarra.

Les quatre Gouvernements ci-dessus nommés pourraient être réunis plus tard, selon les circonstances, avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte, qui nommerait un Gouverneur-Général de l'Albanie.

Une grande responsabilité d'après la nouvelle loi retombera sur les Valis et les Mutessarifs, auxquels on a accordé une puissante initiative; il est donc de la plus grande importance que ces hauts fonctionnaires soient choisis parmi ceux qui chercheront à faire réussir l'Administration qu'ils seront appelés à diriger.

Les bonnes lois n'ont jamais manqué dans l'Empire Ottoman, mais c'en est l'exécution qui a presque toujours fait défaut.

Avant de nous ajourner nous nous permettons de recommander notre œuvre à la puissante protection des Hautes Puissances, que nous avons eu l'honneur de représenter, et d'espérer qu'il en ressortira un résultat heureux pour les populations des provinces et pour la sécurité et la paix de l'Empire Ottoman. C'est dans ce but que nous avons travaillé.

No. 543.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 84.) *Buyukdéré, August* 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement as to the existing divisions of the vilayets, with the sandjaks and cazas they respectively contain, handed in yesterday by the Turkish Commissioners.

I also inclose a map prepared from this statement by Lieutenant Vincent.

In regard to Ipek and Diakova, the administrative position of which there has hitherto been some difficulty in ascertaining, it would appear that the former is in the Vilayet of Kossovo, and the latter in that of Monastir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 543.

TABLEAU Indiquant les Noms des Cazas et des Livas des Vilayets de la Turquie d'Europe.

Vilayet d'Andrinople.

Le Sandjak d'Andrinople.
Les Cazas d'Ouzoun Keupru, Djistri Moustapha-Pacha, Havsa.
Le Sandjak de Gumuldjiné.
Le Caza de Dari Dré.
" Pachmakli, autrement dit Akhi-Tchélébi.
" Eskidjé ou Yénidjé kara-sou.
" Kouch-Kavak ou Sultan-yéri.
Le Sandjak de Rodosto.
Le Caza de Khaïréholou.
" d'Eragli.
" de Tchorlou.
Le Sandjak de Dimétoka.
Le Caza de Dédé-Agadj.
Le Caza de Soufoulu.
" d'Orta-keui.
Le Sandjak de Gallipoli.
Le Caza de Malgara.
" de Kéchan.
" d'Enos.
" de Charikeui.
Le Sandjak de Kirk-klissé.
Le Caza de Tournovo.
" de Vizé.
" de Lulé Bergâsi.
" d'Akhtaholou.
" de Midia.
" de Baba Eski.

Vilayet de Yanina.

Le Sandjak de Yanina.
Le Caza de Paramythia (Aïdonât).
" Kalarytes (Kilât).
" Konitza.
" Kastoria (Kesrié).
" Métzovo.
Le Sandjak d'Argyoukastro ou Erguiri.
Le Caza de Prémédi.
" Boghoun.
" Tébéléni.
" Delvino.
" Hadjaré.
Le Sandjak de Berat.
Le Caza d'Avlona.

Vilayet de Yanina—(continued).

Le Caza de Skrapari.
„ de Timouridjé.
Le Sandjak de Preveza.
Le Caza de Margaritz.
„ de Narda.
Le Sandjak de Trikala.

Le Caza de Trikala.
„ de Volo.
„ d'Armyro.
„ d'Elassona.
„ de Phersala (Tchataldja).
„ de Gardítza.

Vilayet de Salonik.

Le Sandjak de Salonik.
Le Caza de Kara-karyé.
„ de Voléna.
„ de Kassandra.
„ de Keuprulu.
„ d'Avrat-Hissar.
„ de Siroumnitza.
„ de Yenidjé Vardar.
„ de Doïran.
„ de Négueh.

Le Sandjak de Sérèz (Siróz).
Le Caza de Nevrékob.
„ Siguel.
„ Melnik (Menlik).
„ Demir Hissar.
„ Petrich.
„ Djoumâ.
Le Sandjak de Dràma.
Le Caza de Kavala.
„ Sarychaban.

Vilayet de Monastir (*Bitolia*).

Le Sandjak de Monastir.
Le Caza de Prilip.
„ d'Okhrida.
„ de Kozané.
„ de Kritchovo.
„ de Florina.
„ de Djoumâ.
„ de Serfidjé.
Le Sandjak de Krouchévo.
Le Caza de Kastoria (Kesrié).
„ Naslitz.
„ Staria.
„ Kolonia.
Le Sandjak de Prisrendi (Prizrin).
Le Caza de Kalkandélen.

Le Caza de Djakova.
„ Louma.
Le Sandjak de Dibré.
Le Caza d'Elbassan.
„ de Dibreïzir.
„ de Mati.
Le Sandjak de Scutari.
Le Caza de Trianna.
„ de Kavaïa.
„ de Gruda (Rougova).
„ de Mirditi.
„ de Dulcigno.
„ d'Akdja-hissar (Kroya).
„ de Lech (Alassio).
„ de Yoka.

Vilayet de Kossovo.

Le Sandjak de Prichtina.
Le Caza de Pirchova.
„ d'Ipek.
„ de Gulan.
„ de Voulchitern.
Le Sandjak de Yeni-Bazar (Novi-bazar).
Le Caza de Yéni-bazar.
„ de Mitrovitza.
„ d'Akova (Bielopié).
„ de Brana.

Le Caza de Yéni Varoch.
„ de Fergouchna.
„ de Priépolié.
Le Sandjak d'Uskub.
Le Caza d'Ichtib.
„ de Katchanik (Kotchana).
„ de Palanka.
„ de Kounanova.
„ de Radouchté.
„ de Karatova.

No. 544.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 85.) *Buyukdéré, August* 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum on certain points connected with the work of the Commission, which has recently been circulated here. It represents the views of the Macedonian Greeks,

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 544.

Memorandum.

DANS l'organisation de la Macédoine il importe avant tout de ne point s'écarter du principe de l'équilibre des races, auquel se rattache une question d'intérêt général Européen, celle de l'équilibre de la Méditerranée. La position géographique de cette province, qui en fait pour ainsi dire la clé de la Mer Egée et le trait d'union entre la Thessalie et l'Epire d'une part et la Thrace de l'autre, le caractère hétérogène de sa population et les intérêts divers qui s'y heurtent, tout cela crée à la Macédoine une situation toute particulière et réclame l'attention la plus sérieuse de la Haute Commission des Réformes.

Il est vrai que le but visé présentement par l'Europe n'est point de donner une couleur politique quelconque aux contrées qui font l'objet des délibérations des Hauts Commissaires; mais l'Orient est le pays où les influences se disputent sans cesse la prépondérance, où l'insouciance et l'incurie des organes du Gouvernement, jointes à la facilité avec laquelle ils mettent leur autorité au service de la cause qui peut satisfaire leur avidité, rendent le jeu des compétitions facile, et permettent aux propagateurs de doctrines subversives, aux agents des Comités Slaves de tirer parti des avantages politiques les plus insignifiants. C'est là tout le secret du développement du Slavisme en Thrace et en Macédoine; ce sont là les moyens qu'il mettra en œuvre pour faire tourner à son avantage toute organisation de la Macédoine qui ne serait pas fondée sur un certain équilibre des races.

Cet équilibre dont dépend entièrement le sort des réformes et l'avenir de l'Orient ne peut être obtenu que par une délimitation spéciale de la Macédoine, propre non-seulement à faciliter l'application du Règlement Organique, mais aussi et surtout à mettre un terme à l'action dissolvante des agents étrangers et à préparer ainsi le rapprochement des races par l'enraiement des causes qui entretiennent l'antagonisme entre les diverses nations.

Il est notoire que la population Bulgare n'est pas assez forte numériquement ni avancée au point de vue de la civilisation pour aspirer en connaissance de cause à la prépondérance sur une contrée où elle n'occupe pas la première place et dont les grands centres commerciaux sont presqu'exclusivement habités par des Grecs et des Turcs. Pendant des siècles elle a vécu en parfaite harmonie avec les Grecs, et cette coexistence pacifique dura jusqu'à l'époque où les besoins d'une politique étrangère en firent un instrument pour revendiquer en faveur du Slavisme la domination sur toute la Turquie d'Europe. Aussitôt que les premiers émissaires eurent fait leur apparition en Macédoine l'esprit de discorde pénétra dans les localités où jusque-là les Grecs et les Bulgares vivaient en frères, et la lutte commença. Ces derniers poussés par les agents des Comités Panslavistes commencèrent par s'emparer des églises et des écoles Grecques dans les bourgs où ils étaient en majorité. Tel fut le point de départ de cet antagonisme regrettable qui complique la situation de l'Orient. Chercher à interdire l'accès de la Macédoine aux instigateurs de ces spoliations serait peine perdue. Ceux-ci pénétreront toujours au sein des communautés, et continueront leur œuvre avec plus de sans gêne, à l'ombre des libertés dont cette province sera dotée par l'Europe. Un seul moyen reste à la Commission de neutraliser leurs efforts, et de préparer la voie à l'apaisement des passions que tout le monde souhaite, et c'est une division telle de la Macédoine, que les éléments divers soient également représentés, et qu'aucun ne puisse en imposer aux autres.

Il est bon de noter ici à l'appui de ce que nous avançons, que partout où cet équilibre existe aucune animosité ne s'est fait jour, tandis que là où une faible communauté Grecque ou Turque s'est trouvée noyée pour ainsi dire dans la majorité Bulgare les apôtres des Comités faisaient leur apparition et la persécution des écoles et des professeurs était à l'ordre du jour. Il est d'ailleurs tout naturel chez les populations arriérées qu'on respecte son adversaire quand il est de force à lutter, et qu'on s'acharne contre lui quand il est impuissant à se défendre.

Dans cet ordre d'idées la Macédoine devrait être divisée en deux vilayets comprenant l'un la partie sud-est et l'autre la partie nord-ouest. La ligne de démarcation partirait du point de jonction des monts Rhodope avec les Balkans, passerait entre Stroumnitza et Radovich, descendrait au fleuve Axius, près du confluent de la Rivière Melas, monterait vers Tikfes et Monastir, laissant à droite les provinces de Perlépé et d'Ochrida et englobant tout le district de Kiortcha, pour aboutir de là à la nouvelle frontière Hellénique par Colonia, Anasselitza et Grevena. La division sud-est comprendrait:—

1. Tout le vilayet actuel de Salonique, à savoir, les sandjaks de Drama, de Serrès et de Salonique, excepté le Caza de Vélissa;

2. Le nahiyé Moriliovo et les Cazas de Bitolia, Florina, Kiorteha, Colonia, Anasselitza, Kuliaria, Kozani et Servia du Vilayet de Monastir.

3. La province de Grevena, dépendante actuellement du Vilayet de Janina.

Cette partie, dont on vient de tracer les limites, contiendra, selon des données qu'il est permis de considérer comme assez exactes, les nationalités suivantes:—

Grecs purs	380,000	
Greco-Albanais	75,000	
Greco-Valaques		
Albanais		455,000
Bulgares et Bulgarophones		429,000
Musulmans		450,000
Israélites et autres		63,000
Total		1,397,000

Ainsi, la population s'élèverait à 1,397,000 habitants, et les éléments Grec et Bulgare seraient à peu près équivalents sous le rapport du nombre; quant à la population Musulmane, sa supériorité ne serait pas de nature à exercer une influence quelconque sur les autres nationalités prises isolément ou collectivement.

L'autre partie, la partie nord-ouest, se composerait du reste des provinces du Vilayet de Monastir et du Vilayet de Kossovo avec le Sandjak de Scopia et le Caza de Vélissa. Dans cette seconde division, la population Bulgare et Serbe serait équilibrée par les éléments Albanais et Turc.

Mais si l'équilibre des races est nécessaire dans les grandes divisions gouvernementales, il est indispensable dans les divisions secondaires, notamment dans les nahiyés qui constitueront en Turquie les unités administratives. Il serait d'ailleurs facile d'appliquer ce principe dans la plupart des communes à créer, attendu que presque toute la Macédoine est habitée par une population mixte. Mais il faudrait prendre la précaution de le consacrer par un Article de la Loi Organique, afin que l'Assemblée Provinciale fût obligée de le respecter et de procéder à la délimitation des nahiyés en tenant compte de la nécessité de maintenir l'équilibre entre Grecs, Bulgares, et Turcs.

En vertu de la délimitation qui est suggérée par ce mémorandum, la Macédoine serait divisée en deux vilayets assez grands pour que la nouvelle loi organique fût appliquée dans tous ses détails et pour que les principes de l'autonomie administrative se développassent de manière à amener l'entente et la fraternisation des divers éléments par le respect des droits de chacun d'eux. Ainsi érigée sur des bases solides la Macédoine formerait une barrière infranchissable contre toutes les ambitions d'où qu'elles viennent, rendrait vains les efforts de ceux qui aspirent à la conquête de l'Orient et sauvegarderait l'équilibre de la Méditerranée qui est une question d'intérêt Européen.

A côté de cette question importante sous tous les rapports il en est une d'un ordre secondaire, mais qui intéresse la population Chrétienne sans distinction de race, et dont la réglementation dépend dans une grande mesure de la bienveillante médiation des Hauts Commissaires Européens. Les affaires d'immeubles étant régies *ab antiquo* par la loi religieuse Musulmane (Chéri) et cette loi ne reconnaissant pas à l'être moral le droit de propriété, les églises, les écoles, et les établissements philanthropiques non-Musulmans possédant des immeubles sont forcés de les inscrire sous des noms fictifs. Cette irrégularité a failli plus d'une fois déposséder au profit de l'Etat les communautés non-Musulmanes de propriétés d'une valeur considérable. Pour éviter les effets préjudiciables de cette licence que l'on observe dans la législation Ottomane, la haute Commission n'aurait qu'à réclamer pour les communautés, les églises, et les écoles, le droit de propriété, dont elles jouissent dans tous les pays du monde.

On ne saurait terminer ce Mémoire sans prier la Haute Commission de mettre un terme aux conversions des mineurs à l'Islamisme. D'après toutes les lois du monde, les mineurs ne sont pas libres d'embrasser tel ou tel culte. Malheureusement ce principe n'est pas observé en Turquie où les autorités ont jusqu'ici fermé les yeux sur les enlèvements de jeunes filles non-Musulmanes en bas âge, exécutés audacieusement par des Turcs. Ces enlèvements aigrissent les esprits et, témoin le massacre des Consuls à Salonique, donnent lieu à des scènes regrettables qu'il est de l'intérêt général de prévenir.

Pour ce qui est des velléités de l'Exarchat Bulgare sur la Thrace et sur la Macédoine il faut espérer que la Haute Commission ne perdra pas de vue le but purement politique poursuivi par le clergé Bulgare sous le manteau de la religion, et ne voudra pas introduire dans ces provinces un élément dont l'action sera constamment dirigée, comme cela a eu lieu jusqu'ici, contre les décisions de l'Europe et qui mettra en cause sans cesse l'ordre et la tranquillité publics.

No. 545.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 239.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 13, 1880.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 343 of the 4th instant, I have already forwarded to your Lordship a despatch from Mr. Lascelles on the subject of the alleged outrages on Turks in Bulgaria. It is plain that the complaints of the Turks refer, in the main, to events which happened a good many months ago.

It is strange that I have received no reply from his Excellency Abédine Pasha to my note of the 28th ultimo, in which I asked for the dates of the occurrences alleged to have taken place. I shall wait a few days longer, and, if I receive no reply, I shall call his Excellency's attention to the omission to answer my questions. At the same time, I cannot understand why the Bulgarian Government is so long in giving Mr. Lascelles a copy of the Report which has been promised to him.

Your Lordship speaks of an eventual agreement at which I might arrive with my colleagues as to the best mode of dealing with these notes of the Porte touching the persecution of Mussulmans in Bulgaria.

It is, I fear, of no avail to attempt united action on this question here in Constantinople. M. Novikoff's views are so opposed to taking any notice at all of such complaints, and even more so to making any remonstrance which would jar on the susceptibilities of the Bulgarian Government, that the most that could be done here is to avoid, as far as possible, the appearance of differences. It would not be possible to devise any course of proceeding in which we should all unite, and it will probably be necessary either for the Cabinets themselves to agree on some common course, or for each Ambassador here, under instructions from his own Government, to send such a reply as may exhibit the least divergence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 546.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 245.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, reporting the meeting and proceedings of the General Council of the Department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 546.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Bourgas, August* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the General Council of the Department of Bourgas was inaugurated here on the 26th July.

The full complement of the members is twenty-seven, of whom eighteen are Bulgarians and nine Turks and Greeks.

In one of the earlier sittings the Greeks and Turks asked for a translation of some speeches made in Bulgarian, and were told by the President, Mr. Vodineznroff, that they (the Bulgarians) were not bound to interpret for persons who did not understand their language; he also, I am informed, used some expressions which the Mufti considered insulting to him and his fellow Mussulmen.

The Greeks and Turks accordingly withdrew from the Assembly and have prepared a protest to the Central Government against (1) the composition of the Council, in which they state that the Bulgarian element is in a numerical preponderance, incompatible with the statistics (or census) of the different nationalities and the provisions of the Organic Statute; (2) against the refusal to translate into Greek and Turkish the Protocols, &c., of the Council's deliberations.

In spite of the continued absence of the Greek and Turkish fraction, the Bulgarian members continue to hold their meetings.

Notice has been given here that the pay and salary due to the militia, gendarmerie, and civil servants for the month of July (o. s.) will not be paid till some future date. This financial measure has caused much and general discontent, very openly expressed by such foreigners as are affected by it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 547.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 246.) *Therapia, August 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, on the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 547.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Prevesa, July 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis reports as follows:—

"On the 25th instant an innkeeper named Ziogba was carried off by seventeen Turco-Albanian zaptiehs, stationed near Kamberaghe, where the inn is situated, and demand 2,000 liras for his release. The zaptiehs were in disguise.

"On the 19th instant, Mustafa Bey, Achmet Pasha having repaired to Paramithia, promised to provide the Chiefs of the Committee there with arms and ammunition, a Commission of five members was thereupon constituted to assume the administration of affairs. Two Majors (Bimbashies), Promo and Mossa Suleiman, were also appointed for the purpose of raising volunteers. It appears that they will compel the Christians to take part in the movement.

"On the 21st instant Mustafa Bey left for Margariti, which is to be the seat of the Izam Committee."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 548.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 248.) *Therapia, August 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Œcumenical Patriarch has forwarded to me five documents herewith inclosed for perusal and for communication to Her Majesty's Government.

Three of the documents are copies of notes to the Turkish Prime Minister, written in a loyal tone but urging the execution of reforms and the placing of the Christians on precisely the same footing, as regards their civil and legal rights, as the Moslems. A proposal is made, *inter alia*, that the language of the majority of a province should be made the official language side by side with Turkish.

The other two papers are—

1. A letter from the Metropolitan of Salonica, in which it is stated that the Russian Consul is actively engaged in endeavouring to obtain signatures to petitions, proving that Macedonia is chiefly Bulgarian. Abédine Pasha, his Reverence says, checked these Pan-Slavonic intrigues, but since his departure they have recommenced. On the other hand, the Roumanian Consulate is attempting to organize a counter-movement and procure petitions showing that the majority of the inhabitants of Macedonia are Roumans.

2. The last document is a letter from Giorondji, lamenting the pressure put upon the Christians in that place to join in the resistance to be offered to the Greeks.

Yahia Bey, an Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, after an interview with Moukhtar Pasha, it is stated, left for Argyrocastro, and on his way counsels resistance. Yahia tells the Albanians, in the name of the Sultan, so the letter states, that they must all prepare to die.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 548.

Traduction de la Note adressée par le Patriarcat Œcuménique au Ministère Impérial de la Justice et des Cultes en date de 27 Mai, 1880.

Excellence,

PAR ma note en date du 17 Zil-Ihitjé, 1296, que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à son Altesse le Premier Ministre, Saïd Pacha, j'ai eu l'occasion de porter à la connaissance de son Altesse non-seulement le sentiment général des Chrétiens Orthodoxes habitants des provinces de l'Empire Ottoman et sujets fidèles de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, en ce qui concerne l'état actuel des affaires administratives, mais aussi leurs vœux unanimes au sujet des réformes, depuis si longtemps promises et si impatiemment attendues, qui doivent améliorer leur sort, et mettre un terme à leurs souffrances.

A cette occasion votre Excellence, sur l'ordre de son Altesse, a bien voulu me donner de vive voix quelques explications relativement au contenu de ma susdite note, et la promesse que les vœux des Chrétiens à l'égard des réformes seraient prises en sérieuse considération.

Puisqu'il faut dire la vérité, Excellence, je ne puis vous cacher que vos communications verbales ne sont pas de nature à satisfaire les justes réclamations des Chrétiens pour l'amélioration sérieuse et réelle de leur position actuelle; elles sont en outre impuissantes à leur donner la certitude que les réformes tant administratives que communales reposeront sur une base d'égalité parfaite qui est la seule qui puisse leur procurer le bien-être, et faire disparaître de leur cœur le sentiment d'envie qui provient par cela même que les autres peuples voisins jouissent d'une prospérité relativement très-grande.

A mon avis, Excellence, les réclamations des Chrétiens sont pleinement justifiées. Car si l'on considère d'une part l'état de choses actuel, et d'autre part les tendances qui se manifestent sur les mesures à prendre pour y remédier, on peut facilement se convaincre que le présent est très-triste sous tous les points de vue, et que les moyens qui sont employés dans le but d'améliorer la situation actuelle ne sont nullement en rapport avec les vrais besoins du pays; c'est ainsi que le peuple ne peut se vouer entièrement aux intérêts réels de sa patrie et de son Gouvernement sans envier le sort des peuples voisins.

Depuis le jour de la remise de ma note sus-mentionnée je n'ai cessé, Excellence, de transmettre fidèlement à l'auguste Gouvernement Impérial les tristes nouvelles qui arrivaient des provinces au Patriarcat, et qui dépeignaient les grands désordres administratifs, les brigandages inouïs, les abus et vexations de toute sorte commis par différentes personnes, et d'autres faits du même genre dénotant l'état triste et même insupportable auquel est parvenue l'Administration en général.

Je suis persuadé que votre Excellence, dont l'expérience profonde est universellement appréciée, voudra bien reconnaître avec moi que les faits que je viens de citer sont parfaitement exacts; que les rouages Gouvernementaux ne peuvent se mouvoir librement de la sorte, et que le système administratif modifié de la manière que votre Excellence a bien voulu me dire, est bien loin de corriger les abus et donner satisfaction aux légitimes exigences des habitants. Du reste, la preuve de ce que j'avance a été donnée péremptoirement dans les vilayets d'Andrinople, de Salonique, de Monastir,

et de Janina dès que les Commissions Provinciales pour l'élaboration des règlements y ont été instituées.

De tout ce qui précède, il résulte, Excellence, qu'il est de toute nécessité de consacrer pleinement l'égalité entre tous les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et d'octroyer aux Chrétiens les droits de citoyen sans la moindre restriction; ceci, du reste, serait facilement obtenu par l'introduction d'un régime Gouvernemental pareil ou même supérieur à celui qui régit l'Ile de Crète.

Croyez, Excellence, que la situation actuelle si pénible à tous égards me cause une douleur infinie; mon seul ardent désir serait de voir tous les peuples placés sous la souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, sans distinction de race ni de religion, vivre sous le régime de la justice, et conformément aux exigences de notre époque.

Veuillez agreer, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 548.

Traduction de la Note adressée par le Patriarcat Œcuménique à Son Altesse le Premier Ministre, en date du 19 Novembre, 1879.

Altesse,

IL est incontestable que les revers inattendus qui pèsent sur l'Empire, provenus des derniers événements, et dus en plus grande partie à des fautes passées, causent la plus profonde affliction dans le cœur de tout sujet fidèle de Sa Majesté Impériale, pénétré de l'amour de la patrie.

Il n'est pas moins incontestable que, dans sa prévoyance de l'avenir, le Gouvernement Impérial, comme tout Gouvernement prudent, prenant en considération le passé et le présent, s'occupe sérieusement d'éviter tous les écueils, et de réparer toutes les erreurs politiques et administratives qui amènent le malheur et la ruine. On ne saurait se dissimuler non plus que l'état de l'Administration en général est arrivé à ce point qui fait naître les plus graves inquiétudes qui à l'ordinaire précèdent les grandes calamités.

Je suis heureux d'apprendre, Altesse, que dans son propre intérêt non moins que dans celui de ses peuples, le Gouvernement Impérial s'occupe à mettre réellement et effectivement un terme à tous les défauts administratifs qui sont la cause des malheurs généraux et particuliers, et qu'il est sur le point de proclamer un nouveau régime, fondé sur la pleine et véritable égalité de tous les sujets sans distinction de nationalité et de religion, conformément aux hautes intentions et ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale, notre auguste Souverain le Sultan Abd'ul Hamit Han, et aux dispositions adoptées par le Congrès de Berlin.

En ma qualité de Patriarcat et de Chef spirituel de la plus nombreuse et la plus importante partie des sujets Chrétiens de Sa Majesté Impériale, je me fais un devoir d'exprimer hautement en cette occasion mon sentiment en déclarant que, dans mon opinion, les mesures efficaces et salutaires projetées par le Gouvernement Impérial sont les seuls qui puissent éloigner les malheurs et mettre le fondement sur lequel repose l'édifice du bonheur et du progrès des nations.

Cependant j'ai la conviction que votre Altesse voudra bien me donner la liberté d'émettre le sentiment qu'en face d'une œuvre si grande et si sérieuse bien loin d'être utiles les demi-mesures et les institutions vicieuses et incomplètes sont plutôt préjudiciables, ce qui est prouvé par l'histoire de l'Empire dans l'espace des trente-cinq dernières années.

En même temps je crois de mon devoir d'exprimer ici la conviction que dans l'œuvre qu'il a entreprise le Gouvernement Impérial ne se propose nullement de porter atteinte aux institutions qui régissent la communauté Orthodoxe ni d'altérer en quoi que ce soit les immunités et les privilèges accordés dès le premier jour de conquête à l'Église Orthodoxe Orientale, et qui font la base de son administration intérieure.

Je suis pleinement convaincu que votre Altesse n'a point perdu de vue que, conformément à ses privilèges et à ses lois, l'Église Orthodoxe continuera de jouir à l'avenir de sa liberté en tout ce qui concerne le clergé et ses émoluments, les églises, les monastères, les écoles, les fondations pieuses et philanthropiques et leurs immeubles, le mariage, le divorce, le droit de tester, la gestion des biens des orphelins, et le droit qu'ont les Métropolitains et les Evêques de siéger dans les Conseils Locaux, et qu'elle jouira sur tous ces points de la protection efficace du Gouvernement Impérial.

Que votre Altesse veuille bien me permettre encore l'observation suivante. J'ai pris la liberté d'exprimer ci-dessus que l'histoire des trente-cinq dernières années

prouve que les mesures vicieuses et incomplètes sont plutôt préjudiciables que salutaires; c'est dans ce passé que le Gouvernement Impérial peut puiser la meilleure instruction pour la fondation du nouveau régime; pour ma part, je pense que l'égalité projetée doit être vraie et réelle en tout. Par exemple, l'admission de la langue parlée par la majorité des habitants d'une province comme langue officielle de cette province, ou du moins sur le même pied que la langue officielle Ottomane, est dans l'administration un des plus importants éléments dont on doive tenir compte, la répartition égale de la justice exige la nomination des Juges en proportion à de divers éléments de la population d'une province et de leur capacité; en outre, la sécurité de la vie, de l'honneur, et de la fortune des habitants au moyen d'une organisation sage et opportune de la gendarmerie, la nomination des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement parmi les personnes qui auraient les qualités requises, la vraie représentation dans les Assemblées Electives Provinciales, et toutes les autres questions de la même nature sur lesquelles il est indispensable de tenir compte de la proportion de la population. Voilà, Altesse, les points les plus importants qui doivent faire l'objet d'une étude sérieuse du Gouvernement dans l'introduction du nouveau régime, qui sont la base de la véritable égalité, et qui peuvent seuls assurer à l'Empire un avenir de prospérité et de progrès.

Je crois, Altesse, que ces réflexions, qui sont l'expression des vœux unanimes des Chrétiens Orthodoxes, sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale, sont justes, et par conséquent dignes d'être approuvées et acceptées par l'auguste Gouvernement. C'est un fait généralement admis, Altesse, que dans les récentes événements notre nation a particulièrement partagé toutes les épreuves cruelles qui ont pesé sur l'Etat, qu'elle fut soumise à divers sacrifices, et qu'elle a contribué moralement et matériellement de tout son possible à en soulager les peines. Aussi ai-je la profonde et inébranlable conviction que le Gouvernement Impérial en appréciera les sacrifices, le dévoûment, et la position actuelle, et qu'il voudra bien en accueillir les vœux.

En me faisant l'interprète de ces vœux auprès de votre Altesse je remplis un devoir qui est imposé à tout sujet fidèle qui désire sincèrement et ardemment la prospérité et la grandeur de l'Empire. Je supplie votre Altesse d'être convaincue qu'en vue du bonheur de tous les peuples sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale, notre auguste Souverain, mon désir le plus cher est leur véritable fraternité basée sur une parfaite égalité.

Inclosure 3 in No. 548.

Note adressée à Son Excellence le Ministre de la Justice et des Cultes en date du 14 Juillet, 1880, *ou 19 Chaban,* 1297.

Excellence,

JE remercie le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman ainsi que votre Excellence, qui a bien voulu répondre par son Tezkeré, en date du 14 Redjeb, 1297, à ma note du 30 Djémazi-ul-ahir, 1297, dans laquelle j'ai eu l'honneur d'émettre quelques nouvelles réflexions complétant celles que j'avais déjà exposées d'une manière plus détaillée dans mon Takrir en date du 17 Zilhitjé, 1296, relativement à la situation générale du pays et aux réformes projetées qui sont de toute nécessité pour prévenir des conséquences fâcheuses et remédier à l'état anormal des affaires.

Votre Excellence tout en affirmant la haute sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial relativement aux réformes, a cru cependant devoir faire allusion dans sa note responsive à l'inutilité de ces représentations du Patriarcat Œcuménique.

Il est incontestable, Excellence, que les Chrétiens sujets de l'Empire Ottoman, en faveur desquels des prières et des représentations ont été faites au Gouvernement Impérial, ont non-seulement supporté patiemment les désastres dont ils ont été victimes pendant les quatre dernières années si pleines de revers extraordinaires pour le Gouvernement Ottoman, mais aussi ils n'ont jamais cessé de contribuer dans la mesure de leurs forces soit moralement, soit matériellement, au soulagement des épreuves multiples, auxquelles le Gouvernement a été en butte.

Ce n'est que lorsque leurs souffrances dépassaient les limites de la patience humaine qu'ils se décidaient à soumettre humblement leurs plaintes au Gouvernement, s'abstenant systématiquement de s'adresser ailleurs et de tenter des démarches qui auraient pu multiplier les difficultés du Gouvernement Impérial; leur conduite ne s'est jamais démentie; elle doit donc être appréciée à sa juste valeur, et mérite, me semble-t-il, une récompense juste et légitime.

C'est pourquoi, Excellence, la démarche des Chrétiens qui ont voulu soumettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan leurs plaintes et leurs vœux

légitimés par l'intermédiaire de leur autorité spirituelle et dans les limites de la loi, est un gage précieux pour le salut public et une occasion heureuse pour mettre un terme aux calamités et aux dangers.

Il est vrai que la loi sacrée des Musulmans, les Ordonnances Impériales publiées à diverses époques, ainsi que les Traités internationaux, assurent formellement aux Chrétiens justice pleine et entière, sécurité parfaite quant à leur vie, leur honneur, et leur fortune. En est-il ainsi cependant, et en réalité ne sommes-nous pas dans une position qui rappelle peu ou point l'ère nouvelle inaugurée par les lois sus-mentionnées? L'examen des faits le prouvera surabondamment.

Il n'y a personne, Excellence, qui puisse affirmer en toute conscience qu'avec l'Administration actuelle il existe dans les provinces sécurité de la vie, de l'honneur, et de la fortune. Il serait extrêmement douloureux de tenter de faire l'énumération des abus et des crimes inouïs qui s'y commettent journellement; et si l'on voulait en établir une statistique, on arriverait à des résultats qui provoqueraient l'indignation de tout honnête homme. Le peuple dans plusieurs localités se trouve dans la plus profonde misère; il ne peut se livrer paisiblement à ses travaux, il n'est pas maître de sa fortune, et bien souvent des débauchés, poussés par la plus basse bestialité, lui ravissent ses enfants et lui portent des coups mortels dans son amour paternel et dans son honneur.

Tout le littoral de l'Asie Mineure est infesté d'émigrés qui, quittant les contrées cédées à la Russie, commettent impunément tous les crimes; de sorte que les Chrétiens de ces localités seraient heureux s'ils pouvaient sauver du moins leur vie jusqu'à ce que la paix et la sécurité s'y rétablissent.

Dans la Turquie d'Europe une certaine ligue use de tous les moyens pour entraîner les Chrétiens à des agissements qui pourraient avoir des tendances anti-gouvernementales. Quelques-uns même des membres de cette ligue menacent les Chrétiens d'une destruction générale dans le cas où ils ne voudraient pas se conformer aux vues et aux tendances de cette association. Pour comble de malheur, toutes les routes sont gardées par des bandes de brigands qui ne manquent jamais de piller tous ceux qui possèdent une honnête aisance. Les Musulmans sont partout armés; les Chrétiens sont sévèrement blâmés et déclarés coupables par cela seul qu'ils se permettent d'exposer des faits incontestables et soumettre leurs plaintes au Gouvernement Impérial par l'intermédiaire de leur autorité spirituelle.

Les Chrétiens, Excellence, n'ont jamais pris part jusqu'à présent aux questions qui ne sont pas de leur compétence; ils continueront dans l'avenir à suivre la même ligne de conduite; ils ne demandent autre chose que l'application des stipulations contenues dans la loi sacrée des Musulmans, dans les Ordonnances Impériales, et les Traités internationaux; ils ne désirent que la sécurité de leur vie, de leur honneur, et du peu de fortune qui leur reste; ils ne souhaitent que l'égalité des droits et une justice équitable et égale pour tous, et qui ne porte en quoi que ce soit préjudice à leurs compatriotes les Musulmans.

En conséquence, le patriotisme et la sincérité me forcent de prier de nouveau votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération mes deux notes en date du 17 Zilhitjé, 1296, et du 30 Zemajuil-ahir, 1297, et de vouloir bien ordonner les mesures nécessaires pour le soulagement du moins des misères et l'éloignement des dangers qui menacent les localités sus-indiquées.

Inclosure 4 in No. 548.

Traduction d'une Lettre de Gioroudjé adressée au Patriarcat Œcuménique.

NOTRE situation est devenue intolérable. Nos Beys et nos Agas, excités par leurs Chefs spirituels, veulent nous forcer, contrairement à nos opinions, à prendre part dans la lutte contre les Grecs; ils nous invitent à envoyer des délégués de notre communauté Chrétienne à Viglista, où doivent se réunir les Représentants de Viglista, Castoria, Starovo, et Gioroudjé dans le but de rédiger, d'un commun accord, un règlement pour toutes les opérations ultérieures. L'Article principal de ce règlement traitera de la guerre contre les Grecs. Il est facile à comprendre que s'y l'on nous force à signer un acte pareil, on nous forcera aussi à prendre part à la guerre.

Nous avons protesté dans la mesure de nos forces contre ces actes arbitraires; mais on nous a répondu par des menaces, et il est probable qu'on en ne s'arrêtera pas là.

En portant à votre connaissance ce qui précède, nous vous supplions de nous secourir autant que faire se peut; nous vous recommandons la plus grande circonspection dans la communication des renseignements que nous venons de vous donner; autrement notre ruine serait complète.

Autre Lettre.

Nous sommes à la veille des complications très-graves. L'Aide-de-camp du Sultan, Yaya Bey, a eu dernièrement une entrevue avec Moukhtar Pacha. Il y a trois jours qu'il a traversé notre ville se dirigeant vers Argyrocastro; il conseille partout la résistance.

Des soldats Albanais traversent journellement notre ville; 150 d'entre eux, qui avaient terminé leur temps de service militaire, se sont dirigés vers Zabaliani, patrie de Yaya Bey; l'un de ses frères s'appelle Seifoullah Bey; il est Aide-de-camp du Sultan; l'autre, un certain Osman Bey, réside à Salonique.

Yaya Bey a parlé ici dernièrement au nom du Sultan; il a dit aux Albanais que "nous devons tous, nous Albanais, nous préparer à mourir."

Inclosure 5 in No. 548.

Extrait d'une Lettre du Métropolitain de Salonique, envoyée au Patriarcat Œcuménique sous date du 15 Juillet, 1880.

VOTRE Sainteté connaît déjà les grands efforts que fait le Consulat Russe Salonique pour obliger plusieurs districts de la Macédoine à signer des pétitions, prouvant que Macédoine est une province Bulgare.

Cependant, après les événements de Stroumnitza et après l'arrivée dans notre province de son Excellence Abédine Pacha, ces efforts furent modérés pour quelque temps et la hardiesse Panslaviste s'étant effrayée, fut obligée de circonscrire le cercle de ses intrigues. Mais aussitôt après le départ d'ici de son Excellence Abédine Pacha, les espérances des propagandes furent de nouveau ranimées et leur audace arrivée à tel degré, qu'elles ont essayé à faire signer des pétitions semblables, même aux habitants de Blamadi. Heureusement leurs efforts y ont échoués. D'un autre côté le Consulat de Roumanie fait tout son possible pour préparer des pétitions, constatant la majorité de la population Roumaine en Macédoine; c'est dans ce but que le Drogman de ce Consulat est sorti, il y a quelques jours, de Salonique pour parcourir les villages. Les villes de Clissoura et de Kroussowo sont surtout le centre de ces intrigues. Quelques-unes de ces pétitions sont destinées, à ce qu'on dit, pour l'Exarchat, et d'autres pour la Commission Internationale Européenne de Constantinople. On ne peut guère prévoir du reste jusqu'où l'audace de ces propagandes pourra arriver tant que notre province reste sans Gouverneur.

No. 549.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 257.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 17, 1880.

I REGRET to have to acquaint your Lordship that I am unable to report any improvement in the general situation since my last despatches. On the contrary, the present tendency on the part of the Porte is towards a less conciliatory policy, and I have even less hope than before of the decision of the Berlin Conference as to Greece being accepted.

I had a conversation with Abédine Pasha about a week ago, which gave me the impression that the attitude of the Porte has been greatly affected by the continued reports which I understand it receives from nearly all the capitals of Europe, that the Powers are flinching from the active measures which might be necessary to coerce the Turks into an acceptance of the Award of Berlin, and that the fear of the troubles which would ensue in the Balkan Peninsular, as the result of any more active policy, will induce the Powers to let the Award remain as the idle declaration of a wish.

I have at times been inclined to believe that this situation, which is realized by most

of my colleagues, causes them to be more timid in their utterances as to the consequences of resistance on the part of the Turks, fearing lest by outspoken language either they themselves or their Governments might be compromised.

There may also be the fear that, if they continue to hold decided language after others have moderated their tone, the Turks may visit their harsh attitude on them afterwards, and they may find their influence diminished.

For my own part, I feel confident that I am fulfilling your Lordship's wishes, and carrying out my instructions, in continuing to hold the same language as I have done from the first.

As I have informed your Lordship by telegraph, the belief is growing that England is at present displaying a very hostile spirit to Turkey. Our initiative in summoning the Conferences, of which the result has been that Turkey finds herself confronted with her present difficulties, our firmness in keeping the Powers together, and the clearness of our language as to the consequences of resistance, are represented as signs of enmity towards Turkey and of a desire for her ruin. Sensible Turkish statesmen do not share this view. I have had the opportunity of conversing with many Turks of high position who still recognize that the advice given by England is truly in the interests of the Ottoman Empire. But Abédine Pasha remarked to me, "Il faut être un homme d'esprit pour le comprendre." The general public sees nothing but an attitude of hostility. Doubtless, this feeling will pass away in time; but it is clearly to be foreseen that in the event of the failure of the concert of Europe, and the abandonment of England by other Powers, the sense of rancour against England which has sprung up may cause innumerable difficulties, and that our influence for carrying out reforms in Armenia and elsewhere will be temporarily destroyed. It is probable that for some time to come we may have to rely more on other influences than on a desire on the part of the Porte to maintain the friendship of England for any policy which we may wish to carry out in the East.

Your Lordship is aware of the constant endeavours which were made by my predecessors, and have been continued by myself, to induce the Porte to ameliorate in some degree the intense sufferings of the Christian populations, and, in many cases, of the Mahommedans as well. The Representatives of England have been unflagging in their remonstrances as to abuses of power, the selection of improper Governors, corrupt Courts of Justice, and individual acts of maladministration, as well as systematic oppression. Generally speaking, such remonstrances are made by England alone. This Embassy alone exercises a kind of supervision over all parts of the Turkish Empire. No day passes without despatches or telegrams from Consular Agents, detailing some persecution, some abuse of power, some unpunished crime, or some malefactor promoted to high office. This information is almost invariably brought to the notice of the Porte, and there can be no doubt that much irritation is caused amongst Turkish officials by this system. It has been accepted partly on the grounds of positive Conventions, but more so on the ground that England has always been a friend to Turkey, and that her idiosyncrasy in caring for populations who are not her subjects must be humoured, that public opinion in England is easily excited, and that such excitement alienates English sympathies from Turkey.

To a certain extent this lever is being lost in consequence of the attitude supposed to be taken by England on the Greek question. So soon as it is assumed that we are systematically hostile, there will be less disposition to fear to irritate the British public by refusing to correct abuses; and, even now, I am at times in doubt as to the expediency of our multiplying, to the degree to which it has hitherto been done, notes to the Porte on individual cases of abuse reported by our Consuls.

It may be a question whether this course does not weaken our influence in the more important cases. Doubtless, we sometimes succeed, as in the case of Mehemet Ali, of Sivas, with regard to which I spoke on every occasion when I saw the Foreign Minister, and on which I had the advantage of Abédine Pasha himself being more or less interested, as he had to struggle against the influence of Mehemet Ali himself; but, in the immense majority of cases, our remonstrances seem to be vain.

At this moment the attention of the Minister is so concentrated on the Montenegrin and Greek questions, that it is less easy even than usual to obtain their attention for many questions which are in reality of supreme importance, and the neglect of which is paralyzing the force of their Empire, or threatening the lives of innumerable families; but unless there is a total change in the mode of viewing these questions, I doubt whether they would be satisfactorily dealt with even under other circumstances. Your Lordship is aware how, for more than a year past, the Porte has in vain been urged to deal energetically with these questions, which, for humanity's sake, should have claimed precedence almost over all others: the settlement of the refugees, the organization of relief in the famine-stricken districts of Asia Minor, and the restraining of the Kurds; yet in no direction has real progress been made. I cannot use a weaker phrase than that I stand aghast at what may still occur in Asia Minor, in consequence of the apparent inability of the Porte to deal with even the fringe of these difficulties. Your Lordship will obtain an illustration of my meaning by a perusal of my despatch of this day on the Circassian refugees

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 550.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 17, 1880.

ON the 6th instant I communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 216, the alleged intention of the Porte to accept the Dulcigno proposal, and the difficulty which had occurred about Dinosi, with regard to which point the Porte had not understood that the question of a surrender would arise.

In my despatch of the 9th I informed your Lordship that a memorandum had been since officially communicated to the Porte, giving the Porte full particulars as to the new line.

It appears that when this line had been examined by the Council of Ministers, they considered that as it involved the cession of Dinosi and Gruda, points occupied by the Albanians, they would incur almost the same difficulty in carrying it out as in carrying out the April Arrangement, which also included Dinosi. The Porte has throughout been opposed to the cession of the sea-board and the port of Dulcigno. The attraction of the proposal, as has been fully recognized by Mr. Kirby Green, lay in its practicability, but when the Porte came to consider that they would all the same have to expel Albanians by force from Dinosi, the practicability did not appear obvious any longer, and they reverted suddenly to the April Arrangement, and made up their minds that they would do their best to carry it out. Accordingly they determined to send the Minister of War himself, with a body of troops, to execute the surrender of the territory assigned under the April Arrangement. Abédine Pasha also informed me that the Minister of War took with him "decorations" and other means to induce the Albanians to yield. The Minister was to start on the 11th instant, but the previous day a further change was made, and another Pasha was dispatched in his place. The only explanation I could learn as to the cause for the change was that it was thought desirable to avoid compromising the Government by the possible failure of a mission entrusted to one of its own members. But the whole plan was changed again. On the 12th instant the Sultan sent Abédine Pasha round to the Ambassadors to announce to them that the Turkish Government would after all accept the Dulcigno proposal, but on two conditions: first, that Dinosi should not be included in the cession; secondly, that a further delay should be granted for the execution. The cause assigned was confidentially stated to be that the Porte had received bad news from Albania as to the possibility of carrying out the April Convention, and had, therefore, made up its mind to cede what could be ceded without attacking the Albanians, namely, the territory included in what is called the Dulcigno Arrangement, exclusive of Dinosi and Gruda.

Your Lordship will observe that throughout all these changes of front one idea predominates, the desire to avoid having to expel the Albanians from posts occupied by them. The Porte accepted the Dulcigno proposal when they believed that Dinosi was not included. They entertained the April Arrangement for a few days because they found that the Dulcigno proposal included the necessity of driving the Albanians from Dinosi, and finally they have reverted to the latter proposal on condition that Dinosi is to be left out.

We are still without an official answer to our last note, though Abédine Pasha told me more than a week go that we should have it in two days.

On Friday the Ambassadors met to consider the communication which Abédine Pasha had made to us verbally. I pointed out the great inconvenience of this series of verbal communications, and proposed that a memorandum should be prepared recapitulating the various proposals of the Porte, so that at least there might be an official record, and demanding that the last proposal should be given to us in writing by the Porte.

After some discussion this course was adopted, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of the memorandum as it was sent.

I have learnt that Abédine Pasha was much annoyed at the memorandum and expressed his hope that it might be taken back. He did not object to the demand of a written note containing his last proposal, but he objected to the recapitulation of his former unwritten communications. To my mind it was very important that a record should be kept.

By my telegram No. 173, announcing the latest proposal of the Porte, your Lordship was also informed that Abédine Pasha had stated explicitly that if this last proposal was not accepted, and if in consequence a naval demonstration took place, the Turks would refuse to co-operate with their forces.

This is the most precise declaration yet made by the Turks as to their intentions. As I telegraphed to your Lordship in my telegram No. 174, it has become quite clear that the Porte do not intend to use force for the carrying out their engagements.

I have not yet received a reply from your Lordship to the above telegrams, nor am I as yet aware of the view which may be taken by other Powers as to the last proposal of the Porte. I sincerely trust that no delay may ensue, as the influence of the Powers suffers from the prolongation of the present state of negotiation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 550.

Note Verbale.

PAR une série de communications verbales faites les derniers jours de Juillet, son Altesse Abédine Pacha a fait part aux Représentants de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, et de la Russie, du désir qu'avait la Sublime Porte de recevoir le plus tôt possible la réponse des Puissances à sa note du 15 Juillet relative au Monténégro. Le Gouvernement Ottoman nous faisait entendre que si sa dernière proposition n'était pas acceptée il se rallierait lui-même à la combinaison relative à la cession de Dulcigno. La réponse des Puissances a été communiquée le 3 Août.

Le 9 du même mois son Excellence Abédine Pacha a fait savoir dans la même forme verbale à quelques-uns des Représentants des Puissances que la Sublime Porte préférait en revenir aux stipulations du Protocole du 18 Avril.

Son Excellence Abédine Pacha vient en dernier lieu de notifier aux Représentants des Puissances, toujours dans la même forme verbale, l'intention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan d'accepter la proposition impliquant la cession de Dulcigno, à la condition que les positions de Dinosi et de Gruda soient conservés à la Turquie, et qu'un nouveau délai de quelques semaines lui soit accordé pour l'exécution.

Dans l'intérêt de la marche régulière des négociations les Représentants des Puissances se voient dans la nécessité d'inviter le Gouvernement Ottoman à leur communiquer, par une note officielle, la résolution à laquelle il s'est arrêté.

Therapia, le 13 Août, 1880.

No. 551.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 320. Secret.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 12, 1880.

I HAD the honour to communicate to your Lordship last Monday, by telegraph, some information which I had that day received respecting a large quantity of arms alleged to have been collected in depôts at Kustendil, Dubnitsa, and Rilo, for distribution among the Bulgarian inhabitants of Macedonia. My informant is a Russian, and no novice, it would seem, in the artifices of agitation, having taken an active part in the insurrections in Herzegovina, Servia, and Macedonia. He stated to me that he had arrived the previous day from Rilo, where he had himself seen a store of arms; and he handed me an apparently authentic telegram lately received by General Ehrenroth, Bulgarian Minister of War, from an officer at Rilo, acknowledging the receipt of 10,000 rifles, 2 mountain guns, and 600,000 cartridges.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of this telegram, the original of which is in my possession.

My informant then proceeded to give me a description of the constitution and working of the Secret Society, which, he declares, has been founded at Sophia for the emancipation of the Bulgarians of Macedonia.

The following are the active members:—M. Stoviékoff, Dr. Mouloff, Dr. Sheanmanoff.

A number of branch Committees have likewise, he states, been established in the chief towns of Macedonia, a man of the name of Karaova being President of the Sub-Committee at Scopia, and an Archimandrite named Anani acting as secret agent at Monastir. Besides these, another agent, named Hadji Penoff, has lately been sent to Veles. My informant, moreover, tells me that a secret correspondence is uninterruptedly carried on by means of the drivers of the "telegas," or light carts, the letters being hidden in holes bored in the light poles, or sticks, which it is customary, he says, for drivers to carry in Macedonia.

As regards the illicit carriage of these arms into Macedonia, and the manner adopted for their transmission, he states that they are concealed at the bottom of the peasants' carts and covered over with logs of wood. He, moreover, informs me that about 10,000 rifles, of Krincka, Martini, and Chassepôt pattern, have been stored at Kustendil in a large stone building in the centre of the town, known as the "Dehon Dom," and that a nearly equally large number has been collected in a deserted mosque at Dubnitsa.

In reply to a question I put as to whether any arms had been sent from the Principality into Eastern Roumelia, my informant replied that 20,000 Krincka rifles had been put aside for this province, but that he did not know whether they had actually been sent.

I am unable to vouch for the accuracy of the above statements, but I have good proof that my informant has lately been in the confidence of the principal agitators, and that he is, therefore, fully acquainted with the secret measures which are being taken by the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 551.

Lieutenant Kieseff to General Ehrenroth.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rilo, July* (?) 18, 1880.

TEN thousand rifles (Krinka pattern), two mountain guns, and 600,000 cartridges received.

I await your Excellency's instructions.

No. 552.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 321. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, August* 13, 1880.

I AM glad to be able to inform your Lordship that, from information which I have received from trustworthy sources, it appears that the moderate party in the province is gaining ground.

At a meeting held here last week, at which M. Stoeleff, the Political Secretary of Prince Alexander, was present, the political future of the Principality and the province was discussed, the North Bulgarian Delegate energetically urging the co-operation of the Roumelian Bulgarians in a general movement for a speedy union. In reply, the majority of the Roumelian Delegates present refused to undertake any engagement of the kind, much to the annoyance, I am told, of M. Stoeleff, who had been sent expressly to Philippopoli with the object of arriving at a distinct understanding with the advanced party here in view of a possible crisis in the East.

This information, if correct, and there appears to be no good reason to doubt the truth of it, seeing that my informant is himself a Bulgarian, belonging to the national or advanced party, would tend to confirm the opinion I ventured to advance in my despatch No. 309 of the 10th July, that certain feelings of rivalry and distrust had lately taken

root in the minds of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia in consequence of the reiterated, not to say peremptory, appeals on the part of the Principality for a union.

I have not succeeded in obtaining any details as to the arguments which were used at this meeting, but in a conversation which I had yesterday with a Bulgarian whom I believe to be well acquainted with the different views of his compatriots, I elicited expressions sufficiently clear to warrant the belief that, whatever the language of the extreme Bulgarians of the province may be, the moderate party have pointed out to the Northern Bulgarians that they, for their part, are opposed to any premature movement.

Unfortunately, the political qualities of this section are at present only negative. While opposed to the violent views of the extreme Bulgarians, they have up till now taken no active measures to secure the adoption of more sober opinions. Full play is consequently given to a number of agitators and officious busy bodies, whose object and mission it is to alarm the public mind with wild stories of the possible return of the Turks, with a view of keeping up the patriotic and military zeal of the peasants.

It is, I am afraid, no less a fact that there are foreign influences in the province which furtively keep the agitation in motion. It is, therefore, much to be feared that the arrival in Eastern Roumelia of troops from the Principality would at this moment be welcomed by the mass of the population, and that not only the authorities, but even the leading Bulgarians themselves, would be powerless to check the popular current. It is consequently doubly important that the leading Bulgarians should, without delay, clearly give the Principality to understand that they are not only unwilling to take the initiative, but that they are opposed to co-operating in any way in a movement which, if undertaken prematurely, would probably render their homes once more the scene of misery and bloodshed.

Should these considerations become fully understood in Bulgaria, it is not unlikely, in the event of a serious conflict taking place on the Greek frontier, and the crisis extending to these regions, that the Principality might confine its operations to the occupation of the Balkans by its troops, directing its more special attention to the organization of a crusade into Macedonia, in the hope of finally recovering the frontier laid down in the Treaty of San Stefano. In such circumstances, efforts would probably be made here by the more reasonable section of the Bulgarian community to prevent an outbreak taking place in the province, in order to escape, if possible, the bloodshed which would be occasioned by the entry of the Turkish troops. It is doubtful, however, whether good counsels would prevail. Much would no doubt depend on the advice given by the Russian Consul-General, who, it would seem, possesses considerable influence over the principal agitators. The energy which is being shown in the development of the military resources of the province is an unfavourable sign. The drilling of the male Bulgarian population is everywhere actively carried on. A number of Russian sergeants have been engaged; and I learn on fairly good authority that large quantities of ammunition have been stored in depôts in the different departments. I am likewise informed that eleven Russian officers passed through Bourgas last week on their way into the interior. It is difficult to say how far the authorities here are cognizant of the secret measures which are being adopted. The Secretary-General and General Strecker continue to assure me that there is no truth in the reports which are being spread with respect to these preparations. I am therefore reluctantly inclined to believe either that M. Custovitch and General Strecker are sadly misinformed of what is taking place, or that these gentlemen are unwilling to disclose the true state of affairs to the Consular body. In support of this view I may state that, on lately questioning M. Custovitch as to the contract which has recently been made for Russian sergeants, he ridiculed the idea, denying positively the truth of the report, notwithstanding the fact that the Russian Consul-General had only shortly before admitted to me that thirty-eight sergeants had been sent for from Russia. This ignorance on the part of M. Custovitch is the more remarkable, seeing that in the absence of the Governor-General no such contract could be entered into or engagement undertaken without the Secretary-General's signature or consent.

I need not point out to your Lordship the facilities which this want of vigilance on the part of the authorities presents for intrigue. At a moment when there are signs that the more reasonable of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia are disinclined to risk the rights and liberties which they already fully possess by an untimely leap in the dark, a clear field is being left open for the insidious counsels of a clique of agitators. Should a crisis actually occur, the need of a firm hand here will be greatly felt. As it is, failing health gives the Secretary-General an excuse for more than usual inaction. The absence of the Governor-General continues, and in spite of the disorganized condition of the militia and gendarmerie, General Strecker starts, it is said, in a few days for Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have obtained a *fac-simile* of the contract for the thirty-eight Russian non-commissioned officers, copy of which I will forward in a Report on the military condition of the province, which I hope to have the honour of submitting to your Lordship by next messenger.

A. C. S.

No. 553.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, August* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 4 of the 11th instant, received this morning, I have the honour to report that all the information which reaches me agrees in this, that there exist stores of ammunition at Reni, in Bessarabia, on the Danube, and that from these weekly shipments have been made in barges up the river in the direction of Bulgaria, and probably to Rustchuk.

The sailing of a consignment of ammunition and of green-painted (Russian) artillery waggons, was noticed on the 8th instant, both at Galatz and at Tchernavoda, on the Danube, in barges drawn by two propellers, of which one was said to be carrying the Bulgarian flag, and the other none; and it was believed at the former place that the shipment here referred to, which may have included arms, was the last consignment of the kind.

A third propeller was reported to be carrying men, but their number cannot have been large, and there is no statement before me to lead me to suppose that any men which could be called regular troops have been thus conveyed.

Amongst the officers and non-commissioned officers coming from Russia who have gone to Bulgaria to take service there in the army or militia, some may have been seen travelling to their destination in their former uniforms, but these had, no doubt, relinquished their former commissions in the Imperial service, and the inference which it has been attempted to draw from the not inconsiderable number of these, that troops had been sent in transports, appears to me entirely unjustifiable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 554.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 67. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 18, 1880.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BAKER has privately reported to me a conversation he has had in strict confidence with the General commanding the troops on the Servo-Bulgarian and Turkish frontiers, who has just returned from a tour of inspection, my chief reason for bringing it under your Lordship's notice being that it throws considerable light on what I firmly believe to be the real condition of affairs in this Principality.

The General in question said that Servia is slowly but surely preparing for the outbreak of hostilities, but would much prefer its being postponed for the present, and added that everything is ready except the men, the battalions with a few brilliant exceptions being sadly deficient in drill. He was very reserved about the troops on the frontier; but stated there was nothing like the number reported, and concluded by remarking that M. Ristitch was not allowed to know anything respecting the preparations which were being made, and that, should hostilities break out, he would be promptly superseded.

Incredible as the above remark may sound to those not intimately acquainted with Servia, such a state of things as the one described by the General is quite within the bounds of probability in this country, where there are almost always two parties in the Government, the one under M. Ristitch and the other under Prince Milan, who secretly bears no good-will to his Prime Minister, the result being a mass of petty intrigues unavailingly directed against the latter's policy. It is also possible that M. Ristitch may find it convenient to shut his eyes to what is going on around him.

The above military information is to a certain extent confirmed by Major Pinter, who is now acting as Austrian Chargé d'Affaires here, and who from personal experience gained

during the Servo-Turkish war has probably a better knowledge of the military resources of Servia than any other foreigner. He has assured me he feels convinced that no active military preparations are being made at the present moment; but that the equipment, organization, and drill of the Servian forces has been so far perfected, that in a week to ten days from 150,000 to 160,000 fairly good, though indifferently armed, troops would be ready to take the field under a thoroughly competent body of officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 555.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 772.)

Paris, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON DE COURCEL put into my hands to-day three notes from the French Government, in answer to those which, as I reported in my despatch No. 741 of the 16th instant, I had, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, addressed to M. de Freycinet on the 14th instant, with reference to the proposed naval demonstration in connection with the Montenegrin frontier question.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of these notes.

By one of them the French Government accept the rendezvous at Palermo, if it is, as they believe, equally accepted by the other Powers. Orders have, the note says, been given to two ships to proceed at once to Toulon, in order to be ready to leave that port for Palermo on the first signal, and they can arrive there in the first fortnight of next month.

M. de Courcel, who had just been with Admiral Jauréguiberry, told me that the ships would leave Brest to-morrow-morning, that they should arrive at Toulon on the 1st September, and that they would require some four days there to be quite in readiness to leave for Palermo.

I remarked that this constituted a further delay, as the Admiral had intimated to me on the 18th that the ships would be able to reach Palermo by the beginning of next month.

In another of the notes the French Government, whilst professing to agree generally with the spirit of the instructions to be given to the naval Commanders, are not willing that their Senior Officer should be permitted to exercise what are rather to be considered as diplomatic functions, and they consider that the naval Commanders should not interfere personally in political details, but should confine themselves to the naval evolutions prescribed by their Governments. They agree that, in the most ordinary cases, the decisions should be taken by a majority, and that any important difference of opinion should be referred to the respective Governments, and they prefer this mode of proceeding to the other alternative proposed by your Lordship, whereby the Senior Officer in rank would take the command of the united squadrons.

But the note is careful to state that, as has already been agreed upon in the confidential exchange of views between the two Governments of England and France, the naval forces of the Republic chosen to participate in the proposed demonstration will not be authorized in any case to have recourse to force, or to associate themselves with any materially coercitive acts; so that the French Senior Naval Officer could not share the opinion of his colleagues of other nations, even if there were a majority of votes for that opinion, if it involved the adoption of measures of this kind; and, in case the other naval Commanders should proceed to such acts on their own account, he would be ordered to retire immediately.

The third of the notes gives the views of the French Government as to the question of the advisability of the allied squadrons appearing off the coast of South Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 555.

Admiral Jauréguiberry to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, le 21 Août, 1880.

DANS un office en date du 14 Août vous voulez bien me faire savoir que le Gouvernement de la Reine propose Palerme comme lieu de réunion préliminaire pour

les escadres des Puissances alliées, qui seront éventuellement appelées à concourir à une démonstration navale collective devant les côtes de l'Albanie.

J'ai l'honneur de vous annoncer que le Gouvernement de la République accepte très-volontiers ce lieu de rendez-vous, à la condition qu'il soit accepté, comme nous avons tout lieu de le croire, par les autres Puissances.

Des ordres sont donnés à deux bâtiments de notre escadre de rejoindre sans délai le port de Toulon, afin de s'y tenir prêts à se diriger au premier signal vers Palerme. Ils pourront, en cas de besoin, être rendu à ce point de ralliement dans la première quinzaine du mois prochain.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JAURÉGUIBERRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 555.

Admiral Jauréguiberry to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, le 21 Août, 1880.

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer, sous la date du 14 de ce mois, la copie d'une dépêche qui nous a été adressée par le Comte Granville, et qui était accompagnée d'un projet d'instructions destinées à l'Amiral commandant l'escadre Anglaise de la Méditerranée en prévision de la nécessité d'une démonstration navale devant la côte de l'Albanie pour amener la Porte Ottomane à se conformer à l'invitation contenue dans les notes identiques des Puissances du 3 Août dernier.

Vous m'avez demandé de vous faire savoir si le Gouvernement de la République était disposé à donner des instructions semblables à l'officier qui aurait le commandement des bâtiments de guerre Français appelés à prendre part à la démonstration en question.

La communication que vous avez été chargé de me faire se rapporte à deux ordres d'idées différents.

En premier lieu les instructions préparées pour l'Amiral Anglais exposent la situation politique née des récentes négociations avec la Porte Ottomane concernant la délimitation du Monténégro; elles examinent les éventualités diverses qui peuvent se produire, suivant la ligne de conduite qu'adopteront les autorités Turques du district de Dulcigno, et elles indiquent le sens des pourparlers qui devraient être engagés, soit avec ces autorités locales, soit avec le Prince de Monténégro, soit enfin avec les Chefs des tribus Albanaises.

Nous sommes heureux de nous trouver d'accord avec le Gouvernement de la Reine quant à l'esprit général de ces indications. Toutefois nous verrions des difficultés et des inconvénients à confier au Commandant des forces navales Françaises un mandat qui l'amènerait à s'acquitter d'attributions plus naturellement réservées aux Agents Diplomatiques de la République, s'il s'agit d'entrer en communication officielle avec le Gouvernement du Sultan ou avec celui du Prince de Monténégro, ou bien à l'Agent Consulaire le plus proche, s'il s'agit d'établir des rapports et d'ouvrir des négociations avec les autorités administratives ou avec les Notables de la localité. Nous croyons donc, que sans intervenir personnellement dans les détails d'une situation politique qu'ils n'ont pas à apprecier, les Commandants des escadres alliées devront se borner à exécuter les évolutions qui pourront leur être prescrites, suivant les circonstances, par leurs Gouvernements, et c'est dans ce sens que, pour ce qui nous concerne, nous aurions la pensée de tracer au Commandant Français ses directions.

Les instructions Anglaises règlent, en second lieu, l'exercice du commandement dans la conduite des escadres alliées. Elles stipulent que, dans les cas les plus ordinaires, les décisions devront être prises entre les Commandants-en-chef des six escadres à la majorité des voix, mais qu'en cas de dissentiment persistant, il sera référé aux Gouvernements qui trancheront la question. Nous donnons notre entière approbation à ce mode de procéder, par préférence à un autre système qui se trouve indiqué dans la lettre de Lord Granville, et qui consisterait à confier la conduite des forces navales des six Puissances à l'officier le plus élevé ou le plus ancien en grade, sans distinction de nationalité.

Je dois toutefois vous rappeler en terminant, qu'ainsi qu'il a été entendu déjà dans l'échange confidentiel de vues qui a eu lieu entre nos deux Gouvernements, les forces navales de la République, appelées à participer à la démonstration projetée, ne seront autorisées en aucun cas à recourir à l'emploi de la force ou à s'associer à des actes de coercition matérielle. Le Commandant Français ne pourrait par conséquent adhérer

à l'avis de ses collègues des autres nations, même pris à la majorité des voix, si cet avis comportait l'adoption de mesures de ce genre, et dans le cas où les autres Commandants passerait outre pour leur propre compte, il aurait ordre de se retirer immédiatement.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JAURÉGUIBERRY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 555.

Admiral Jauréguiberry to Mr. Adams.

Paris, le 21 Août, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

DANS une lettre du 21 de ce mois vous m'exprimez, au nom du Gouvernement de la Reine, l'opinion que dans le cas où il serait donné suite au projet de démonstration navale collective devant Dulcigno, les escadres alliées devraient éviter de paraître en vue des côtes de l'Albanie méridionale de peur de pousser les populations Albanaises de ces parages à se coaliser dès à présent pour résister à la Grèce.

Nous pensons que cette question, qui intéresse la ligne de navigation des escadres combinées, peut être remise sans inconvénient à la décision des Commandants de ces escadres, et le Commandant Français ne fera pas de difficulté pour se conformer à l'avis adopté par la majorité de ses collègues. Toutefois, il nous semble qu'à un certain point de vue, il serait d'un fâcheux effet d'éviter avec affectation le voisinage de la côte que la Conférence de Berlin a attribuée à la Grèce. En effet, si l'apparition de nos escadres était de nature à provoquer uniquement un mouvement de résistance de la part des Albanais, c'est que le principe même de cette démonstration serait mauvais, et il vaudrait mieux dès lors y renoncer aussi bien d'un côté que de l'autre. Si, au contraire, dans l'opinion des Gouvernements alliés, le déploiement de leurs forces navales doit produire un résultat utile pour la solution des affaires qu'ils ont entrepris de terminer, les populations intéressées pourraient éprouver quelque surprise à voir que les Puissances réservent tout leur effort pour le réglement de la question du Monténégro et se montrent au moins jusqu'à nouvel ordre, relativement indifférentes à l'accomplissement de leur décision en ce qui concerne la Grèce. Une impression de ce genre serait évidemment très-regrettable, et préparerait de grandes difficultés pour l'avenir. Le moyen le plus sûr de triompher de l'opposition qu'on redoute de la part des populations Albanaises serait, à notre avis, de leur montrer les Puissances parfaitement résolues, dès à présent, à ne reculer sur aucun point devant les menaces d'une ligne de résistance, et déterminées à poursuivre sa réalisation de leurs vues tant au sud qu'au nord de l'Albanie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JAURÉGUIBERRY.

No. 556.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 774.)

Paris, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Baron de Courcel to-day, and, after communicating to him the two telegrams which your Lordship proposes to address to Mr. Goschen relative to the Montenegrin question, as contained in your telegrams Nos. 404 and 405 to me, I communicated to him your Lordship's subsequent telegram No. 406, and asked him if the French Government would instruct M. Tissot in the sense of the two proposed telegrams to Mr. Goschen, and whether they would order their naval contingent for the intended demonstration to proceed to Palermo at once with instructions similar to those with which I had already furnished the French Government, the necessary alterations being made as to dates and as to the concessions on the part of the Porte.

M. de Courcel began by putting into my hands three notes in answer to those which I had addressed to M. de Freycinet on the 14th instant. I transmit copies of these notes to your Lordship with my despatch No. 772 of this day.

With regard to the proposed telegrams to Mr. Goschen, it appears that M. Challemel-Lacour had already communicated their sense to his Government, and M. de Courcel was kind enough to let me see a telegram which had been consequently sent to his Excellency from the French Foreign Office.

This telegram commenced by recapitulating the information received from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna, which was to the effect that the Austro-Hungarian Government were, as your Lordship has already been informed by Sir H. Elliot, ready to accept either the maintenance of the note of the 3rd instant, or to adopt the last proposal of the Porte, but would take no initiative; that they would be conciliatory as to details if the Porte gave substantial proof of good faith and good will by an immediate commencement of positive action with reference to the cession of Dulcigno.

The telegram then stated that the French Government were desirous of finishing, as quickly as possible, this irritating question of the Montenegrin frontier; that they were anxious that it should not be made a point of departure which would lead to a general crisis, the end of which no one could foresee; and they did not wish to get into a situation to escape from which they might expose themselves to ridicule and discredit, and which would leave no other issue than one accompanied by acts of violence. What the French Government looked upon as the important point was the cession of Dulcigno, and they fully agreed with the Cabinets that Turkey should be required to give a guarantee of her sincerity by immediately proceeding to take steps to deliver over Dulcigno, and that if she were to refuse to do so, they would not hesitate to get the better of her ill-will and want of faith by a naval demonstration before the sea-board to be ceded to Montenegro.

But if the Porte, the telegram proceeds, should voluntarily and loyally commence the execution of the cession of Dulcigno, it would be impossible for the French Government to give the assistance of their ships to obtain from Turkey the abandonment of certain problematical points on the eastern side of the Lake of Scutari, the cession of which has not been clearly stipulated in either of the notes dated the 26th June and the 3rd August.

The French Government, therefore, the telegram says in conclusion, do not agree to the words "exécution intégrale," *id est*, they agree to the phrase in the first of your Lordship's proposed telegrams to Mr. Goschen, that the only satisfactory proof that the Porte can give of its willingness to carry out its engagements will be the rapidity and completeness with which the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement is effected, only so far as the word "rapidity" and not so far as the word "completeness" is concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 557.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 775. Very Confidential.)

Paris, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I must trouble your Lordship, very confidentially, with further details of my conversation with Baron de Courcel to-day on the Montenegrin frontier question and the policy of the French Government.

I was with M. de Courcel for a good hour and a half, and he began our conversation by saying that he was particularly anxious to tell me exactly what the policy of his Government was, as he feared there was or might be some misunderstanding, and he was most anxious that between us there should not be anything of the sort, considering it of the highest importance that the relations between England and France should be of the most intimate and cordial character; that, in fact, England was the only country on which France could really rely, and he was sure that we were equally well disposed towards her; he would therefore be perfectly open with me.

He then read, and afterwards put into my hands, the telegram to M. Challemel-Lacour of which I have given your Lordship a précis in my preceding despatch; and he also gave me the answers to my notes respecting the naval demonstration.

He said that I must understand that the French Government were quite determined to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government as far as the peculiar position of France allowed them; but that I must recollect that, owing to that position, and to the opinion of the country, expressed, as I was well aware, very strongly, they could not go beyond a certain point; that England and Russia seemed inclined to proceed with all steam up, but that France could not do so; nor, he remarked, should we find other nations more willing than she.

Here I observed that our policy was certainly not to go ahead with one particular nation, but that it had been from the beginning to proceed in concert with all the Powers; and that if we made any proposal to the Powers, and Russia happened to close with it at

once, that did not at all show that Russia and England were pushing on before the others at full speed.

M. de Courcel went on to say that if the Turks would commence measures for the cession of Dulcigno, the French Government would accept that as an earnest of good faith, and he hoped that this troublesome question would then be settled. As for the frontier-line to the east of the Lake of Scutari, nowhere had he seen it definitively laid down; it was not mentioned in the note of the 3rd August, and in that of the 26th June there was only a vague allusion in the paragraph where it was said that, when the Porte had accepted in principle, the Governments reserved to themselves the defining of the different points of the new line of demarcation, as well as the details destined to complete the arrangement. He also remarked that the Austrian Government were not inclined to be strict as to details with respect to the eastern frontier-line. He justified the strong language of the telegram to M. Challemel-Lacour by insisting that if the allied squadrons should reach Dulcigno when that territory was given over to Montenegro, they would be in a ridiculous position if they attempted to exercise any influence with reference to a district away inland to the east of the Lake of Scutari.

On my side, I argued that the mere fact of a demonstration by the allied squadrons would have an immense moral effect at Constantinople, that I had heard on good authority that the very idea of this demonstration had much affected the Sultan, who dreaded that it might be the first step towards his sharing the fate of Ismail Pasha, and losing his throne; that the Turks were well informed of what went on, and were eager to seize upon any evidence of a divergence of opinion between the Powers, and I deprecated any action which looked like hesitation on the part of any Power, and which might lead to a doubt as to the maintenance of the European concert. Would the French Government, I asked, really join in the naval demonstration as they had promised, and would they go to Palermo? He answered, certainly to Palermo, and to Dulcigno, if necessary, owing to the delay or bad faith of the Turks as to its cession.

M. de Courcel also declared himself to be entirely opposed to entrusting the naval Commanders with anything approaching to political or diplomatic functions, and he said that the French Government neither wished their Senior Officer to lead the others, nor to be led by any one of them.

Your Lordship will thus see that the French Government are still chary and fearful of joining in this naval demonstration, and that they would be only too delighted if the Porte would at once set to work seriously with the cession of Dulcigno; that they really desire the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, but that they are not particular as to how the line is drawn to the east of the Lake of Scutari; if the Porte shows bad faith they will, though reluctantly, join in the demonstration, as far as Dulcigno is concerned. I repeat that they are sincerely anxious to work with Her Majesty's Government, but on the other hand they are sadly afraid that England will go further than France, under present circumstances, will venture to follow her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 558.

Memorandum by Captain Sale of August 24, 1880.

Reply of Porte to Collective Note of 3rd August, 1880.

I THINK that the expression, "on the side of Podgoritza, Lake of Scutari," is used merely as an equivalent for saying "to the north of the Lake of Scutari."

The Austrian officer mentioned by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram of the 23rd instant says, "as the note speaks of the Treaty line from Podgoritza to the Lake," and bases his conclusions on this wording.

But it will be noticed that this is not the wording used in Mr. Goschen's telegram of the 19th instant. In any case the wording of the note, however it be interpreted, will almost certainly give occasion to the Turkish Commissioners to renew their claim to draw the line so far to the west as to include nearly the whole of the Plain of Podgoritza.

Had the Sublime Porte in good faith intended to demand merely the slight alteration involved in shifting the line so as to give Dinos to the Albanians, it appears to me that they would have given a more precise form to their wishes, and would hardly

have made use of the very vague and elastic wording employed in the written answer to the note of the 3rd August, 1880.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*

August 24, 1880.

No. 559.

M. de Kallay to M. de Hengelmüller.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, August 24.)

(Translation.) *Vienna, August 22, 1880.*

HEREWITH inclosed you receive a series of communications of Her Britannic Majesty's Government which refer to the intended naval demonstration of the Signatory Powers of the Berlin Treaty with regard to the question of the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier, and the draft of the instructions which we propose to give to the commander of our squadron under reserve of the consent of the other Powers to the views therein exposed.

By comparing this document with the draft of instructions for the British Naval Commander, you will find how carefully we were endeavouring to concur in the views of the Cabinet of St. James with regard to a practical and effective execution of the naval demonstration.

Nevertheless, we thought it necessary to propose some modifications of the British draft, which seem to us calculated to facilitate the attainment of this object, and the motives of which we are ready to discuss openly and unreservedly with Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

Before entering into this discussion I wish to observe that, although we have no objection on principle against the choice of Palermo for a first rendezvous of the united fleet, we still would prefer that the vessels of His Majesty the Emperor and King should only effect their junction with the rest of the fleet in Dalmatian waters. According to our opinion this will bear no disparagement either to the dignity or to the effectiveness of the naval demonstration, but it will save the Imperial and Royal Government from useless and premature employment of their ships. Further, we think it convenient, though we place all our Dalmatian ports at the disposal of the united fleet, that the port of Gravosa (Ragusa) should be designated for the second rendezvous of the fleet instead of Cattaro. The former recommends itself by the facilities which it offers with regard to the supplying the ships with provisions and coal. Besides, you will suggest to Her Majesty's Government that although, as already mentioned, we keep the port of Cattaro open for the united fleet, we could not do this without stating the exceptional character of this admission, so as to prevent any prejudice for the future.

With regard to the merits of the questions suggested by England, we consider the points relating to the position and attributes of the Commander-in-chief as most important. In the main, we are of opinion to decide ourselves for the second of the two alternatives proposed by England in Lord Granville's despatch to Sir Henry Elliot of the 19th, and to limit as little as possible the military powers and responsibilities of the Commander-in-chief. We, for our part, do not desire that our Commander should be taken into consideration neither for the supreme command nor for its substitute, but we should like to see England accept this supreme command, in which case she would have to provide that the officer appointed thereto should, in reality, be of senior rank to all the other Commanders present with the fleet.

We fully agree with the first part of the English propositions with regard to the *modus procedendi* before Dulcigno. It seems to us to be in the spirit of the collective note and the diplomatic negotiations connected with it relative to the demonstration, that the object of the intended maritime measure should be precisely stated, and the landing of troops excluded on principle.

Divergences between our and the English views occur only from that point when it is supposed that the Turkish authorities should express their readiness for the transfer of the districts to be ceded to Montenegro, but at the same time their impossibility actually to execute that transfer because of the resistance of the population, or because they should decline the responsibility for the maintenance of order in case of the surrender. In this case the British Government desire to let the Commanders of the fleet enter into direct negotiations with the Chiefs of the Albanian hill tribes, in order to ensure the result in view by their persuasion or by assurances with regard to their future administration. We are of opinion that in this case, as in the eventuality

of a refusal of the surrender on the part of the organs of the Porte, the immediate notice should be given to the Prince of Montenegro, together with the summons to occupy by force of arms Dulcigno, for which purpose he was to receive the assurance of the maritime support of the fleet.

Direct negotiations with the Albanian Chiefs seem to us to be not free from objections, and promising but little result. From the moment that the Albanians rise against the order of the Turkish authorities, they may be considered rebels, and there will be hardly an instance of analogy in international law for entering into a negotiation with rebels in the name of Europe on foreign soil, and at the occasion of an action to which the accession has been left free for the territorial Power which alone has the right of settling with her subjects. Besides, it is at least questionable whether the Albanians would be prevailed upon by oral persuasion and a mere passive assistance of the fleet to drop their resistance. And this is the point where not only the immediate result of the expedition, but the prestige and dignity of Europe could be decisively compromised. It seems to us to admit of no doubt that in the eventuality in question—when the organs of the Porte should have given their assent to the occupation—when in consequence the rights of the territorial Power are not violated, all conditions for an active interference of the fleet are fulfilled.

The same conditions appear to us to exist if the Turkish authorities should or flatly refuse or pretext want of instructions to lend aid for the occupation of Dulcigno, and should not withdraw their refractoriness in a term fixed as short as possible.

The stipulation, that the fleet have to consider their task as finished if the Prince of Montenegro should not obey the summons of the Powers with regard to his advance upon Dulcigno, is a simple consequence of the provision of the collective note of the 3rd August, which limits the object of the expedition exclusively to the supporting of the military action of Montenegro, and therefore presupposes the latter.

There is only one point more to which we desire to draw the attention of Her Britannic Majesty's Government. It refers to the proposition to let the fleet lie before Dulcigno, under all circumstances, until the execution of the action, even in the eventuality of its interruption by political incidents. We appreciate fully the motives which make it seem desirable to the Cabinet of St. James' to insert expressly such a prescription in the interest of the earnestness and the weight of the expedition. But we have practical apprehensions. The anchorage off Dulcigno is open and untenable in stormy weather. We deem it useful not to bind ourselves formally, and to leave the decision of this question to the military dispositions of the Commander-in-chief.

You will bring these remarks to the knowledge of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen, and give them copy of this despatch and of the instructions. We hope that they will recognize in these documents and in the present commentaries our earnest endeavour to meet the wishes of England, and to give to the measure taken in view by the Powers the most effective shape.

(For the Minister of Foreign Affairs),
(Signed) KALLAY.

Inclosure in No. 559.

Instructions for the Commander of the Austro-Hungarian Ships taking part in the Naval Demonstration.

(Translation.)

HEREWITH you receive copy of the documents which relate to the negotiations of the Signatory Powers to the Berlin Treaty with the Sublime Porte in the affair of the Montenegrin Boundary Rectification.

You will learn from these documents that it is left to the Porte to choose between two proposals, of which the first is specified in the Convention between the Porte and Montenegro, concluded on the 18th April last, the second in the proposition of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople on the 26th June.

In the collective note of the Powers of the 3rd August the expectation was expressed that the Porte, in case it should not be able to carry out either of the proposals submitted to it, should come to an agreement with the Powers to support the Prince of Montenegro in seizing possession of the Dulcigno territory. The three weeks' respite allowed to the Porte in the aforesaid documents expires on the 24th of this month, and if by that time it should not have succeeded in carrying out one of the two proposals, you will receive orders by telegraph to betake yourself with the iron-clad

ships "Custozza" and "Prinz Eugen" to Ragusa (fortified port of Gravosa), which is appointed as the meeting-place for the naval force of the Treaty Governments.

The object contemplated by the said Governments in this maritime measure is laid down in the collective note of the 3rd August. It is the support of a military action on the part of Montenegro for seizing possession of Dulcigno, by the combined fleet of the Powers in this way from the seaside: any landing of military appurtenances is therefore on principle excluded.

The Commanders of the ships forming part of the expeditionary fleet are under the supreme command of the Senior Admiral in rank, in whose place the next senior in rank will act. In all questions of a purely military nature the Commander-in-chief decides quite independently; in political questions he is bound to come to an understanding with the Commanders of the several divisions of the fleet. Should such understanding not be arrived at, it is reserved for each Commander to report to his Government on the question at issue, and to claim the suspension of any further action until the Powers decide. The Commanders, however, will have to comply with a military order from the Commander-in-chief, even in this case, under written protest if necessary.

So soon as you shall have joined the rest of the fleet in the harbour of Gravosa, you will put yourself in communication with the Commander-in-chief and the other Commanders respecting the position to be taken by the fleet as the most effective before Dulcigno. When the Commander-in-chief shall have given his decision hereon, he will address a summons to the Governor of Scutari and the local authorities of the town of Dulcigno, to deliver up the town and the territory of Dulcigno to Montenegro. If the agents of the Porte declare their consent to this, the Commander-in-chief is at once to inform the Prince of Montenegro thereof, and to call upon him to come, with his military force, and take possession of Dulcigno. Should the Turkish authorities decline, and declare that they have no instructions from the Porte, or if they agree with the transfer in principle, but declare that it cannot be practically accomplished in consequence of the opposition of the Albanian population, then, after a respite of three days, to be granted to the Turkish authorities for the purpose of getting orders from the Porte, the Prince of Montenegro is still to be informed as soon as possible, and invited to take possession of Dulcigno by military means, with assurance of support from the fleet. In this case the Commander-in-chief is authorized to order, on his responsibility, all military measures on the part of the fleet that appear conducive to such support from the sea-side.

Should the Prince of Montenegro fail to comply with the invitation of the Powers to bring in his troops, in either case, then the action of the fleet is to be considered as terminated, and you will receive further orders.

You will inform the Imperial and Royal Government by a Report, as accurate as possible, in writing, and by telegraph, of all important incidents, for which a tender-steamer, not belonging to the combined fleet, will be placed at your service.

No. 560.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

DULCIGNO question.

An Austrian officer who was employed on the Montenegrin frontier demarcation has just arrived here, and, after consulting him, M. Kallay thinks that the written proposal of the Porte does not differ materially from what had been said verbally. As the note speaks of the Treaty line from Podgoritza to the lake, it cannot be supposed to allude to Kuči Krajna, and the reservations seem only to be about Dinosi and Gruda.

During the sittings of the Commission Turkey claimed on the east side of the lake territory as forming part of Gruda that the other Commissioners refused to admit as such, and the last note of the Porte is so worded that it may perhaps intend to reopen that question, which M. Kallay considers quite inadmissible.

If, on the other hand, the Porte consents that the frontier recommended by the five Commissioners, from the lake to the bridge over the Zem, should be followed, as proposed by Mr. Green, and should then bend so as to leave to Albania the small portion of Gruda territory, including Dinosi, which lies on the right bank of the river, M. Kallay thinks that the Turkish offer should be seriously examined and considered.

By the Treaty of Berlin Gruda was to remain to Turkey, and the tribes, if possible,

were not to be cut in two, as Gruda would be by Mr. Green's line; and as the Gruda country on the right bank of the river is only very few square miles in extent, M. Kallay thinks that it would be better to defer answering the Porte till the exact meaning of its offer is ascertained.

It is so difficult to discuss these matters by telegraph, that he is sending by post the opinion he has come to after consulting the staff officer and an explanatory map.

No. 561.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 23, 1880.*

NOTWITHSTANDING Riza Pasha's prayers, I find the North Albanians are being encouraged to continue their resistance, and last night at a public meeting it was decided that 400 volunteers should leave this to-day at sunset for Dulcigno. I have not yet heard that any step has been taken to stop their departure, and I must repeat once again that nothing is done by the Albanians without the knowledge and permission of the Ottoman authorities.

This dispatch of volunteers is evidently expected to exercise pressure on the Powers, and is simply absurd as a defensive measure.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 562.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 24, 1880.*

LAST night about 400 volunteers left for Dulcigno with the greatest ostentation, the Roman Catholic [*sic*] declining to [interfere] in that direction. At midnight, after the public departure of the volunteers, and after the dispatch of all the supplies, Riza Pasha sent for the Mahommedan members of the Scutari Committee to express his displeasure at their proceedings. They replied that if they had done wrong let him do better, and left his presence to join a tumultuous gathering of the Mussulman [?].

Riza Pasha's conduct is lamentably weak, or else he is [?] with the natives, and wishes to pretend that they have gone against his advice.

No. 563.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 24, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Government has suggested certain modifications to the instructions to naval Commanders proposed by your Lordship. The Italian Government, having adopted the latter, decline to entertain Austrian modifications unless agreed to by your Lordship. Italian Admiral has, I believe, special instructions to act in strict conformity with the orders of the English Admiral.

No. 564.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 24, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 484.

Count Maffei has noted your Lordship's reply to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and says he will hold the same language. He thinks some misunderstanding exists, and is, personally, strongly in favour of demanding the cession of Dulcigno at once, the rest to be seen to later.

No. 565.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 24, 1880.*

MY telegram No. 112.

French Chargé d'Affaires has made a communication in the sense reported. Count Maffei declined to express an opinion without reference to your Lordship.

No. 566.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 24, 1880.*

COUNT MAFFEI informs me that, having been summoned by the Prime Minister, he thinks it right that in his absence and at so important a moment your Lordship should know, in any question which may arise out of the Montenegrin or Greek affairs, the Italian Government are determined to act in complete accord with Her Majesty's Government, and that no proposal or suggestion from the other Powers will be entertained by them unless previously sanctioned or approved by your Lordship.

No. 567.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 24, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's Nos. 436 and 437.

Prince Hohenlohe concurs in your Lordship's proposed draft of telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and has telegraphed to the German Ambassador at Constantinople in the same sense.

No. 568.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 24, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 438.

Prince Hohenlohe says that the Austrian Government have announced modification to the instructions to the naval Commanders, which he must see before he can reply, and he would be glad to know your Lordship's opinion about them also.

The German ships will be placed under the orders of the English Admiral or senior officer as the case may be.

No. 569.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 24, 1880.*

SPECIAL train with a battalion of infantry 500 strong left this last Sunday for Verisovitz, about half-way between Useup and Pristina, and I hear more troops will be sent to the above locality for protection of Salonica and Mitrovitza Railway.

I have telegraphed above to Constantinople.

No. 570.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24, 2 P.M.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 24, 1880, 8·30 A.M.

LAST meeting of the Commission yesterday.

Project of Law was signed by all the Commissioners, and the six Commissioners handed in a collective declaration with it. The declaration about Albania followed, but was not unanimous, as at the last minute Russian Commissioner, under pressure from the Russian Ambassador, refused to sign it.

No. 571.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 24, 2·15 P.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August* 24, 1880, 10 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 13, following is substance of declaration of five Commissioners:—

They declare that, as regards the Albanian countries, they accept memorandum on the Sandjak of Scutari presented by Austrian and French Commissioners, and recommend, perhaps [?] provisionally, the memorandum. They also desire that the Imperial Government, in introducing the supplementary law into the rest of Albania, should likewise take into account privileges possessed *ab antiquo* by the mountain districts beyond the Sandjak of Scutari, and notably the privileges of the Chimarra.

Moreover, if the Porte thought fit to unite Albania under a single vilayet, they would see no objection therein.

No. 572.

Earl Granville to Earl Northbrook.

Foreign Office, August 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of the 12th instant, and to your Lordship's reply of the 14th instant, relative to the proposed naval demonstration off Dulcigno, I transmit, for your information, a copy of a note which has been addressed by the Porte to the Powers in reply to the collective note of the 3rd August.*

The rejoinder to be sent to this note is now under discussion, and a copy of it will be sent to you as soon as it has been finally agreed upon.

In the meanwhile a telegram, of which I inclose a copy, has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,† stating that the Austrian Government, considering that Palermo would not be a convenient rendezvous for the Austrian ships, have placed their ports in the Adriatic at the disposal of the allied squadrons, and think that it would be more convenient if the ships were to proceed to Ragusa instead of to Cattaro.

I have informed Sir H. Elliot and Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Rome, and St. Petersburgh that Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree to this proposal, and I have suggested that those Powers who cannot conveniently send their ships to Palermo should meet the others at Ragusa.

The Admiral in command of Her Majesty's fleet in the Mediterranean should be informed of this change in the arrangements.

I inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of telegrams, as marked in the margin,‡ relating to the demonstration, which have been received from various quarters, and the copy of a telegram which I propose to address to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Vienna,§ suggesting certain alterations in the draft instructions which appear to be required in consequence of the change which has taken place in the circumstances of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 442.
† No. 466.
‡ Nos. 476, 514, 515, 516, 519, and 568.
§ August 24.

No. 573.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 249. Political.)
Scutari, August 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the communication from the Montenegrin Government referred to in my telegram to your Lordship of this day.

From the information reaching this from Prisrend and other parts of North-east Albania, I think there is no need to attach much importance to the fears expressed by the Montenegrin Government, and which appears somewhat too disposed to lend weight to the vague reports conveyed to it from its border districts.

There can be no doubt, however, that the will is not what is wanting to the Mahommedans in the quarters mentioned to assume the offensive against the Montenegrins, but the union and agreement required among the different tribes and Chiefs to bring about such a result is pretty certain to be absent in all cases except when Albanian territory is invaded by strangers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 573.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le 10 *August,* 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

NOUS recevons du côté de Vasogivic les informations suivantes, que nous vous prions de transmettre à votre Gouvernement:—

Ali Pacha, de Gusinjé, vient d'être proclamé Commandant-en-chef de toutes les forces de la ligne dans les Sandjaks de Prisrend et Novi-Bazar. Dans une Assemblée réunie à Prisrend il a été décidé d'enrôler dans chaque caza 2,000 combattants, destinés à marcher contre le Monténégro. Dès son arrivée de Prisrend à Gusinjé, Ali Pacha a écrit à notre Capitaine du District de Velika, en lui demandant: "Pourquoi les habitants de ce district ont enlévé leurs récoltes?" et, en même temps, il a menacé d'attaquer ce district ainsi que Poljinge [?].

D'après les mêmes informations les Turcs se préparent aussi à nous attaquer prochainement du côté de Kolachia.

No. 574.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 251. Political.)
Scutari, August 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" arrived at Val de Noce, the locality serving as a port to the town of Dulcigno, the day before yesterday from Corfu, for the purpose of showing the British flag in these waters.

Commander Pusey rode up to Scutari and called with me on Izzet Pasha, who completely understood the friendly nature of the visit of the "Bittern."

Commander Pusey informed me that he was received with every sign of cordiality by the inhabitants of Dulcigno, and Hadji Mehemed Betsy, who is one of the most influential men of the town, and the leader of the party which is supposed to be determined to resist annexation to Montenegro, gave him every assistance to enable him to reach Scutari in safety.

I think that the above may be accepted as a valuable indication of the attitude the Dulcigniotes would observe should it be necessary for the Powers to carry out the naval demonstration on this coast.

The "Bittern" has now left to resume her station in Ionian waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 575.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the return to Crete from Constantinople of the Governor-General, Photiades Pasha. His Excellency left this island for the capital on the 7th June, for the purpose of inducing Ministers, and particularly His Majesty the Sultan, to sanction the laws passed by the General Assembly of the Cretans at its last Session in February and March of this year.

Photiades Pasha may claim the merit of having succeeded in the object of his mission, his Excellency informing me that all the most important measures voted by the Assembly have received the requisite approval, and will shortly be promulgated. Of these the most essential is that which endows the island with a Code of Civil and Criminal Procedure. This had been drafted with great pains by an eminent lawyer of Greek nationality, M. Scalzounis, and, with some modifications of no practical importance, it will now become law in Crete. The greatest opposition had been offered to the passing of this Code by the Mussulman members of the Assembly, who, when it was put to the vote, quitted the Assembly in a body, from an idea that, having been the work of a Greek lawyer, it was necessarily contrary to their interests. Happily, the prejudice against it, which was founded on ignorance, has passed away, and it will be accepted without opposition by the Judges of both Creeds. A special law on the subject of mortgages, which grants the fullest security to creditors, has also received the Imperial sanction, as well as the law dividing the island into communes for parochial administration.

Certain reductions in the salaries of the Mutessarifs and of the Mouavins have not been approved, and this restriction to the will of the Assembly is, as regards the former functionaries at least, certainly commendable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 576.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 36. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 15, 1880.

I YESTERDAY had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship, and to his Excellency the Ambassador, that a Turkish transport had that day left Suda Bay with two battalions on board intended for Scutari. Both battalions are Nizam, and muster about 600 men each.

There now remain in Crete five Nizam battalions of about the same strength.

Photiades Pasha was much opposed to the departure of these troops, the Cretan Mussulmans being apprehensive lest in the present excited state of Greece the Christians might be thereby encouraged. His Excellency accordingly telegraphed to the Minister of War six days ago to deprecate their departure, and as his representations were unheeded, he addressed a telegram to His Majesty the Sultan on the subject. The battalions, however, have been allowed to leave, with the promise that they shall be replaced within a fortnight by other troops.

The attitude of the Cretan Christians is perfectly peaceful and inoffensive, and I have reason to believe that the political correspondence from Greece exhorts them to avoid any demonstration which could give umbrage to the Turkish authorities.

The battalions that have left are the following:—

3rd battalion, 1st regiment, 3rd corps;
3rd „ , 1st „ , 2nd „ .

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 577.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 25.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Le* 12 *Août*, 1880.

POUR faire suite à mes précédentes communications concernant la situation qui est faite à la population Musulmane de la Bulgarie, je vous transmets, ci-joint, copie d'un Rapport que je viens de recevoir sur les crimes et les attentats commis contre la vie, l'honneur, et les biens des Musulmans de Roustchouk et de ses environs.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien signaler les faits mentionnés dans ce Rapport à la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) ABÉDINE.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Rapport.

LES crimes et attentats contre la vie, l'honneur, et les biens de la malheureuse population Musulmane de Roustchouk et de ses environs, sont à l'ordre du jour. Depuis quelques jours une vingtaine de cas de meurtres, vols, et viols ont été signalés et les Bulgares coupables de tous ces crimes se promènent tranquillement, au vu et au su de tout le monde, sans en avoir été jamais inquiétés. Il serait très-long d'énumérer un à un tous ces cas. Je me borne à signaler le fait suivant, qui s'est passé il y a cinq jours aux environs de Roustchouk.

Un certain Hadji Yacoub, du village de Borassan, à trois heures d'ici, se rend avec deux de ses compagnons visiter ses ruches d'abeilles sises dans une campagne voisine. Vers le soir ils sont assaillis par une dizaine de Bulgares qui les attachent tous les trois et amènent une cinquantaine de pas plus loin Hadji Yacoub et lui demandent de l'argent. Sur l'observation de ce malheureux qu'il n'avait pas d'argent sur lui et que le peu qu'il en possédait se trouvait dans son village, ces monstres ont allumé un feu de broussailles sur lequel on a placé Hadji Yacoub. Sur ces entrefaites, un de ses compagnons est parvenu à couper ses liens et courir au village pour prévenir de ce qui se passait. A l'arrivée des villageois les Bulgares s'étaient retirés, et on a trouvé l'infortuné Hadji Yacoub à moitié brûlé, mais pas encore mort. Avant d'expirer il a pu dénoncer quatre de ses assassins qu'il aurait reconnus et qui seraient: (1) Youvantcho, du village de Gagallié, maître d'école (Dasculo); (2) Pantcho, du dit village, chasseur; (3) Sani, dit le Tchinghiané, du village de Lipnik. Il m'a été impossible jusqu'ici d'obtenir le nom du quatrième assassin.

Sur la réclamation des villageois, ces quatre individus ont été arrêtés et envoyés ici où, après quatre jours de détention, ils ont été mis en liberté.

L'affaire en est restée là et personne ne s'occupe plus de ce malheureux Hadji Yacoub, mort dans d'atroces souffrances.

Ce que je désire bien établir c'est qu'il n'y a eu jusqu'ici aucun exemple d'un Bulgare puni pour avoir volé et assassiné un Musulman. Aussi cette malheureuse population consternée, émigre en masse. Chaque semaine des centaines de familles s'embarquent ici pour aller s'établir soit dans la Dobroudja soit en Turquie.

No. 578.

Abédine Pasha to Musurus Bey.—Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, August 25.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 23 *Août*, 1880.

DANS le but de terminer la question du Monténégro nous avons consenti, comme vous le savez, dans notre réponse à la dernière note des Six Puissances, à céder Dulcigno comme équivalent aux territoires désignés dans la Convention du 18 Avril.

Nous avons en même temps déclaré pour la partie du Lac de Scutari qui comprend certaines positions stipulées dans cette Convention, partie que nous avons indiquée sous la dénomination de "côté de Podgoritza," que nous acceptons la délimitation qui sera faite conformément au tracé du Traité de Berlin. Voici la raison de cette réserve: la cession de Dulcigno n'avait été proposée qu'en échange des territoires stipulés dans la dite Convention.

Mais plus tard le premier Drogman de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne est venu me faire,

au nom des Chefs de Mission des Six Puissances, une communication officieuse d'après laquelle les Cabinets entendaient englober dans les territoires à céder, outre Dulcigno, certains points tels que Dinoch et Gruda qui sont compris dans la même Convention.

Cette communication n'a pas manqué d'attirer toute notre attention. En abandonnant un point aussi important que Dulcigno, la Sublime Porte n'avait en vue que de supprimer les difficultés auxquelles s'était heurtée la Convention du 18 Avril.

Si nous consentions à céder aujourd'hui au Monténégro outre la ville et le district de Dulcigno, conformément au désir des Puissances, deux des points tels que Dinoch et Gruda, nous nous exposerions à de nouvelles difficultés et complications, et l'œuvre de pacification serait ainsi gravement compromise. C'est pour éviter cette éventualité et assurer le succès de notre tâche que nous avons cru devoir faire des réserves pour Gruda et Dinoch, tout en adhérant à l'abandon de Dulcigno et de ses environs, conformément au vœu des Puissances.

Je vous donne ces informations pour que vous soyez à même de défendre notre cause dans les conversations que vous aurez avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 579.

Baron Kallay to Chevalier Hengelmüller.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Chevalier Hengelmüller, August 25.)

Vienna, August 24, 1880.

WE have submitted the reply of the Porte in the Montenegrin question to serious examination. We, too, do not find it quite satisfactory. But a careful study of the map has led us to a result with regard to Dinosh and Gruda, which, according to our opinion, may not remain without influence on the text of the answer of the Powers. You will shortly receive a despatch on this subject with an explanatory map.

Will you communicate this to the British Government, and add that, nevertheless, we think preparations for naval demonstration desirable?

No. 580.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, August 24, 1880.*

VOLUNTEERS who left this last night, together with about 1,000 inhabitants of Dulcigno and the neighbouring villages, have taken up a position on the Mazura Mountain.

The Turkish troops in that town have offered no opposition to this proceeding.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 581.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 25, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 480 of the 21st.

Italian Government have sent instructions to Constantinople in the sense suggested by your Lordship.

No. 582.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 430.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 25, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

LORD ODO RUSSELL writes on 18th instant, with reference to your telegram No. 170, that Prince Hohenlohe had given following explanation as to proposal respecting Janina being attributed to you: Count Hatzfeldt had telegraphed that he and his colleagues agreed that if Janina were given to Greece a peaceful settlement would be less

likely than if it were left to Turkey, and that you had communicated this to Her Majesty's Government. Further, the Russian Ambassador in Berlin had communicated a Report from M. Novikoff of a conversation with your Excellency, in which he stated that you considered settlement would be more easy if Turkey were allowed to retain Janina. The Turkish Ambassador in Berlin had also urged that you acknowledged the difficulty of depriving Turkey of Janina, and that your opinion was shared by your colleagues. Prince Hohenlohe had, in consequence of these communications, connected in his own mind the Janina question with your name, until he had discovered that the suggestion had really originated in secret and personal confidences made by Abédine Pasha to each of the Ambassadors at Constantinople in turn. On discovering this misunderstanding he had telegraphed to Count Hatzfeldt to explain to you.

No. 583.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August 25, 1880.*

A MEETING was held here last Monday, at which it was decided to form a Society in Philippopoli in aid of the Bulgarians of Macedonia, similar to that suppressed at Constantinople in 1877 by order of the Sultan.

A working Committee of five altogether was appointed to draw up regulations, and branch Committees are to be established in chief towns in Macedonia.

Subscriptions to the amount of 600*l.* have already been promised.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 584.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 25, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

MR. GOSCHEN and French Ambassador both think the more publicity is given to the probable new law the better, as pressure can be thereby brought on the Porte. The French Commissioner before leaving gave copies of the laws made at the last meeting by Commissioners [to the] correspondent of the "Temps."

I leave on Friday.

No. 585.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 25, 1880, 7·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 51, what is the substance of the memorandum on the Sandjak of Scutari presented by Austrian and French Commissioners? You do not appear to have sent it home. Please repeat seven groups in your telegram that follow words "Austrian and French Commissioners."

No. 586.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 497.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 25, 1880, 8 P.M.*

YOURS No. 116.

Pray express to Count Maffei the gratification of Her Majesty's Government at his assurance of the determination of the Italian Government to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government. I will inform him as soon as an understanding is come to with Austrian Government.

No. 587.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 410.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1880.

Sir,

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and communicated to me a copy of the Porte's answer to the collective note of the 3rd August in regard to the Montenegrin frontier question.

I told Musurus Bey that I did not wish to discuss the matter at present, but that there seemed to be a difference between the answer of the Porte, as given in the note, and that which had been verbally given to the Ambassadors by Abédine Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 588.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 582 A. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day and communicated to me the telegram, of which I inclose a copy, and a translation of the despatch which he had just received from his Government, proposing certain alterations in the instructions to the Commanders of the squadrons which are to take part in the naval demonstration. I inclose a copy of this paper also for your confidential information.

I told the Chevalier Hengelmüller that I noticed with pleasure the general desire for complete harmony between them and ourselves, which the proposals of the Austrian Government seemed to be dictated. I thought it would be best to defer discussing them in detail until the suggestions and criticisms of other Powers had been received. In the meanwhile, I might mention that I had already telegraphed to our Representatives at the other Courts stating what was thought at Vienna as to the place for the squadrons to meet, and had suggested that those Governments who thought Palermo inconvenient should direct their ships to proceed at once to Ragusa.

I was glad to see that the Austrian Government were of opinion that whatever answer was returned to the last Turkish proposal, the preparations for the naval demonstration should still proceed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 589.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 481.)
Foreign Office, August 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that you will express to Count Maffei the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at his assurances, which you have reported to me by telegram, of the determination of the Italian Government to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government in any question which may arise out of Montenegrin or Greek affairs; and you will state to his Excellency that as soon as an understanding is come to with the Austrian Government I shall not fail to inform him of the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 590.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 283.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 19, 1880.*

THE disposition of France to withdraw from, or at least to modify, the active part the Government of the Republic was credited with taking to bring about an arrangement of the Greek frontier as recommended by the Berlin Conference, as manifested in the tone of the French press, by the delay in the arrival here of French officers to reorganize the Greek army, by the sudden withdrawal of the French squadron, and by the non-fulfilment of the promise of the French Government to furnish Greece with 30,000 rifles, has caused a feeling of disappointment throughout this country.

Public opinion remains, however, throughout Greece very quiet, and little doubt is expressed but that in some way or other the hopes of the country as regards the new frontier will be realized, though, I think, there is is a general disposition on the part of the Greeks to rely on the Great Powers rather than on their own efforts for their fulfilment, and there is no symptom at present of any desire on the part of the country, nor, as I am assured by M. Tricoupi, of the Government, to do anything to provoke a contest with Turkey.

Meanwhile, the army is being gradually placed on a war footing, and the recruits of the class liable this year for service are coming in satisfactorily.

According to the report of the Minister of War, the number of men with the colours at this moment amounts to 19,700.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 591.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Août, 1880.*

DANS le cas où le Gouvernement Anglais, en présence des variations de la Porte, voudrait maintenir la sommation pure et simple avec démonstration maritime, l'Empereur serait prêt à y adhérer.

Toutefois, si les Cabinets, en vue de la confusion au sujet des frontières à l'est du Lac de Scutari, préfèrent demander la remise immédiate de Dulcigno et de son district, comme gage de la sincérité de la Porte, et réserver la décision du reste à un examen ultérieur, Sa Majesté y consentirait. Cet examen pourrait être fait d'après le projet de carte annoncé par l'Autriche.

No. 592.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, August 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Août, 1880.*

JE crois devoir ajouter à mon précédent télégramme que, d'après nous, les préparatifs, le mouvement, et l'annonce de la démonstration navale devraient s'effectuer en tout cas, tant afin de prouver à la Porte le sérieux des décisions Européennes, que pour surveiller la remise effective de Dulcigno. Sans cela, les Albanais pourraient essayer de reprendre cette place, dès qu'elle aurait été évacuée par les troupes Turques.

No. 593.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 25, 1880.*

ANSWER to note of the Porte of the 26th ultimo on the Greek frontier signed by the Ambassadors to-day, and will be presented to-morrow.

No. 594.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1880.*

THE Russian Government has just learnt of the objections raised by France and Austria to your projected reply to the last Turkish note in reference to the Montenegrin frontier. M. de Giers agrees with your Lordship in thinking that there is an essential difference between the verbal and the written communications from the Porte on the subject. A telegram addressed to Prince Labanoff has been prepared for submission to the Emperor to the following effect:—

"The Russian Government would be prepared to concur with that of Her Majesty in insisting on the immediate and complete execution of all the terms of the Dulcigno project, but should the English Government think it desirable, in the presence of the difficulties which have arisen, to postpone the consideration of that part of the project which affects the frontier to the east of Lake Scutari, and which includes Dinosi, the Russian Government would be willing to acquiesce, and to accept the immediate surrender of Dulcigno as an instalment, provided the Porte is warned that the other demands comprised in the settlement are strictly maintained."

No. 595.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26, 1 P.M.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 26, 1880, 9 A.M.*

THE plan of the Austrian and French Commissioners substantially resembles that of Mr. Green and M. Lippich, as given in his despatch No. 176, Political, of the 27th June. The plan itself is inclosed in my despatch No. 89 of the 19th August.

No. 596.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 26, 1880, 9·50 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 14.

Groups which follow words "Austrian and French Commissioners," in my telegram No. 51, are, "and recommend its provisions to the Porte. They also wish that the Imperial Government, in introducing the new law into the rest of Albania, should likewise take into account the privileges possessed, *ab antiquo*, by the mountain districts beyond Sandjak of Scutari, and notably the privileges of the Chimarra. Moreover, if the Porte thought fit to unite Albania under a single vilayet, they would see no objection."

No. 597.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 436.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1880, 7·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to Lord E. Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 52, I propose to present Protocols and new law to Parliament at once.

No. 598.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26, 8 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 26, 1880, 1 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Admiral here has received orders to proceed at once to Gravosa or Cattaro, and to act, in regard to demonstration at Dulcigno, with English Admiral.

* Also to Lord E. Fitzmaurice (No. 16).

Two Russian ships of war, "Svetland" and "Yemtchog," have orders to meet Russian Admiral on Dalmatian coast.

No. 599.

Earl Granville to Mr. Gould.

(No. 52.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1880.*

I HAVE to state that I approve the language which you held to Prince Milan with reference to the proposed naval demonstration by the Powers off the coast of Dulcigno, as reported in your despatch No. 59, Secret and Confidential, of the 31st ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 600.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 572.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language held by you to M. de Kállay on the subject of the proposals respecting Montenegro, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 494 of the 18th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 601.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 423.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1880.*

I APPROVE the language which your Excellency used to M. de Giers, as reported in your despatch No. 337 of the 12th instant, in reply to that Minister's inquiry whether, with reference to a paragraph in the "Times" as to the conditions under which this country might promote the fulfilment of those parts of the Treaty of Berlin which are favourable to Turkey, Her Majesty's Government were disposed to encourage the Porte to garrison the Balkan fortresses with its troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 602.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 425.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me to-day the telegram of which I inclose a copy, relative to the Montenegrin frontier question.*

I said to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government considered that the preparations for the naval demonstration should continue, that that was also the opinion of the Austrian Government, and, I believed, of other Powers. We thought that the Porte should in any case be held to the immediate cession of the Dulcigno district.

As regards the other point mentioned in the telegram, the settlement of the frontier east of the Lake of Scutari, I was not prepared to give him an answer at once, but hoped to be able to do so in a day or two.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 591.

No. 603.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 261.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1880.*

SINCE my despatch of the 17th instant on the subject of the Montenegrin Frontier question, the written answer of the Porte to the last collective note has been received. I have the honour to inclose a copy.

The substance is entirely in accord with the verbal communication made by Abédine Pasha, but your Lordship will not fail to observe the tone of the passage in which the Porte refuses in advance to associate itself in any way with any action which might be taken by the Powers to assist the Prince of Montenegro to occupy the ceded territories by force.

It is worth your Lordship's attention that, when this note was written, Abédine Pasha was already in possession of information which led him to believe that his proposal for ceding Dulcigno, but not Dinosi, would in substance be accepted by the Powers, France and "another Power" having put forward this idea. His Excellency was able, therefore, to hold much more determined language as to what would be the attitude of the Porte in case of the non-acceptance of his proposal than it would otherwise have been wise of him to use.

His Excellency expressed great satisfaction to the French Ambassador at the course the French Government had taken. M. Tissot was good enough to communicate to me part of the conversation which took place. I said to M. Tissot I hoped most earnestly that the compromise proposed on this question would not be treated by the Turks as a precedent, and stimulate them to engage in similar manœuvres in the Greek question to those which had now enabled them to carry a point in the Montenegrin question which had been so long resisted. M. Tissot told me, in reply, that Abédine Pasha had at once seen the analogy, and the advantage which the precedent would secure to him, and, in fact, had asked, "Pourquoi ne pouvait-on pas s'arranger sur la question Grecque dans une manière semblable?"

If it is the intention of the Powers to draw forth a counter-proposal from the Turks on the Greek question, then indeed the precedent may be useful. The Porte will see that if they make a clear and definite proposal, though not a complete acceptance of what was to be imposed, they can obtain some concessions. They may now think it wise to make such a counter-proposal on the Greek frontier rather than abide by their vague declaration of inability to comply, but if the Powers intend to stand by the Berlin award, as the note declares, then the acceptance of the compromise offered by Abédine Pasha will certainly encourage the Turks to resist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 603.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 18 Août, 1880.

JE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, de Russie, d'Angleterre, d'Italie, de France, et le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche-Hongrie ont bien voulu lui écrire en date du 3 Août, en réponse à celle qu'il leur avait adressée le 15 Juillet dernier, relativement à la question Monténégrine.

La Sublime Porte voulant donner une preuve manifeste de sa déférence au vœu des Puissances, et de son désir d'arriver à une solution prompte et satisfaisante de cette question, consent en principe à la cession de Dulcigno au Gouvernement de Monténégro. Toutefois, du côté de Podgoritza, Lac de Scutari, la ligne de démarcation sera celle qui résultera de l'application sur le terrain des points indiqués dans le Traité de Berlin. La Sublime Porte est prête à conclure une Convention à cet effet.

En s'imposant le sacrifice d'une position aussi importante que Dulcigno, chef-lieu d'un pays fertile, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a en vue que d'écarter tout nouveau conflit et toute éventualité de complication. Pour que cette cession puisse avoir lieu sans secousses ni difficultés, il faudrait naturellement une prolongation de quelques semaines du délai réellement insuffisant de vingt et un jours.

Le Soussigné déclare, en même temps, que la Sublime Porte, en adhérant à l'abandon

de Dulcigno, est pénétré du devoir absolu de sauvegarder avant tout ses droits de souveraineté, et d'écarter de la sorte tout projet d'intervention étrangère. Si donc les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, contre toute attente, n'acceptaient pas la proposition qui précède, et croyait devoir adopter certaines mesures tendant à aider le Monténégro à occuper de force la ville de Dulcigno, le Gouvernement Impérial se verrait dans l'impossibilité de s'associer, sous quelque forme que ce fût, à ces mesures qui seraient prises en dehors de son consentement.

(Signé) ABÉDINE.

No. 604.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Sophia, August 14,* 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from M. Zancoff, informing me that the Prince of Bulgaria had determined to call out the reserves of the division of Sophia.

M. Zancoff states that the men will remain under arms from the 27th instant to the 13th proximo, and that the reserve of the division in question numbers 2,000 men.

His Excellency points out that this measure has been adopted solely for the purpose of instructing the men in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 604.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le 10 Août,* 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, par son Ukase du $\frac{26 \text{ Juillet}}{7 \text{ Août}}$, daté du Couvent de Rilo, a décidé, sur l'avis du Conseil des Ministres, suivant le rapport du Ministre de la Guerre, et en vertu des Sections 12, 98, 99, du Règlement Provisoire de l'Armée Bulgare, d'appeler en activité de service des soldats de réserve de la division de Sophia, comprenant les districts de Sophia, Kustendil, et Orkanié.

Ces soldats sont appelés aux lieux de réunion pour le $\frac{15}{27}$ Août, et resteront à l'instruction jusqu'au 1er Septembre.

L'armée Bulgare, comme vous le savez, M. l'Agent, forme trois divisions—Orientale, Occidentale, Sophia; la réserve de cette dernière est d'environ 2,000 hommes.

C'est pour éviter tout malentendu que j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître la résolution arrêtée par notre auguste Maître, résolution qui n'a en vue que l'instruction de ces soldats de réserve.

Agreez, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANCOFF.

No. 605.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 369.)
My Lord, *Rome, August 14,* 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's telegram No. 30 of the 7th instant, the Italian Government have no knowledge whatever of the intention of the Sultan to request the Emperor of Germany to arbitrate between Turkey and the Powers with regard to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 606.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 383. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 22, 1880.*

I LEARN from Count Maffei that he has received confidential information of a telegram addressed to M. de Reverseaux, the French Chargé d'Affaires, to the effect that the French Government consider the tenour of the Porte's note of the 18th instant as being sufficiently in accordance with the previous declaration of Abédine Pasha to the Ambassadors, and they are consequently of opinion that the projected naval demonstration for the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier falls through of itself ("tombe d'elle-même dans l'impuissance").

I asked Count Maffei if, in his conversations with the French Chargé d'Affaires, the latter had led him to infer that the French Government were endeavouring to draw back from the general concert of the Powers? He said that M. de Reverseaux had lately manifested so marked a reserve in his communications, that the course lately pursued by France appeared to him inexplicable. He was, therefore, of opinion that your Lordship should be made aware, without loss of time, of the information which had reached him, as he considers that the only hope of bringing these questions to a satisfactory solution rests in a thorough understanding and a complete accord.

General Menabrea has been instructed to communicate with your Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 607.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 384.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 22, 1880.*

M. DE SCHEWITCH, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, stated to me yesterday that he had been instructed to call the attention of the Italian Government to certain discrepancies between the verbal declaration of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Excellency's note of the 18th with regard to the Montenegrin frontier question.

The Russian Government, M. de Schewitch said, is of opinion that the note in question cannot remain unanswered, and they, therefore, suggest that Her Majesty's Government be requested to draw up the draft of a reply. I asked him if this suggestion had met with the approval of the Italian Government, and he assured me that Count Maffei had not only acceded to it, but that he would instruct General Menabrea to give it the support of the Italian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 608.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 385.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 22, 1880.*

THE Marquis de Reverseaux, the French Chargé d'Affaires, informs me, as I had the honour to report some days since, that he had received a telegram from his Government instructing him to communicate with the Italian Government on the advisability of accepting the proposal of the Porte to execute the Dulcigno arrangement, less the cession of Dinosi and Gruda. He said he had been instructed to support this proposal, and to add confidentially that, in the opinion of the French Government, the further delay claimed by the Porte did not appear to them unreasonable. M. de Reverseaux added, that no doubt your Lordship would furnish me with similar instructions, as he had reason to believe that our respective Governments had come to an understanding on this point. He likewise informed me of the willingness of the Italian Government to accede to the suggestion of the French Government, but, Count Maffei had observed, that as the

Italian Government was desirous of acting in all these matters, in concert with the Government of Her Majesty, he would instruct General Menabrea to consult with your Lordship on the subject of this fresh proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 609.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 386.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 23, 1880.*

In conformity with your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me in your despatch No. 448 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have communicated to the Italian Government a copy of the instructions which Her Majesty's Government have prepared for the Admiral in command of the Mediterranean Station, in view of the contemplated naval demonstration, in the event of the Porte failing to carry out the conditions of the collective note presented to the Turkish Government on the 3rd instant.

In reply, I beg to inform your Lordship that Count Maffei has stated to me that the Italian Government are of opinion that it would be better to come to an understanding that the Senior Officer in rank among the Admirals present should undertake the command of the united squadrons, consulting the other Admirals on all questions of a political character.

On this understanding the Italian Government are ready to send instructions to the Senior Naval Officer of the ships of war which they intend for the demonstration.

Count Maffei further added that General Menabrea has been directed to communicate the above; to furnish Her Majesty's Government with any further explanations which may be required by your Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 610.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 388.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 23, 1880.*

INCLOSED herewith I beg to forward a translation of an article which appeared in yesterday's issue of the "Opinione" relative to the foreign policy of Italy.

As an organ of the Opposition, the "Opinione" can barely claim to be correctly informed as to the views and intentions of the Government, nor should this article be taken as an expression of public opinion, but it certainly has its value as the representative of the more educated and unprejudiced class in this country, among whom it has a very considerable circulation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 610.

Extract from "L'Opinione" of August 21, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF ITALY.—The foreign policy of our Government is either obscurely disguised and unintelligible to our powers of perception, or, it seems to us, they are pursuing a wrong course, or, rather, no settled course at all.

The subject is a grave one. Parliament does not open till November, and till then ought we to leave the Government alone without the light and without the guidance of public opinion? In England when Parliament is not sitting statesmen discourse on public affairs to their constituents, and the press is more watchful than ever.

This, then, in our opinion, who are in ignorance of all the secret machinations of diplomatists, appears to be the state of affairs. There is evidently an unconditional alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary; and this has become still closer since

the change of Ministry in England, and the succession of Mr. Gladstone to Lord Beaconsfield. This alliance is based on grounds of reciprocal interests; Germany has guaranteed to Austria her actual territory, and countenances her successive annexations and designs in the East. Austria would, if occasion should arise, support Germany against France and Russia; moreover, both States look upon Russia as a common enemy, and are interested in the repression of Panslavism, and, since Austria might doubt the good faith of her new ally, who in 1866 inflicted on her such severe punishment, Germany has given many proofs of sincerity.

She supported Austria at the Congress of Berlin with regard to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she declared her approval of the measures of repression and hostility connected with the "Italia Irredenta" movement; in fine, Germany is at this moment helping Austria, under pretext of establishing durable regulations, to get the monopoly of the police of the Danube from Galatz to the mouth.

These things appear as clear to us as that Germany, who in the Turkish question seems quite disinterested, is continually acquiring greater influence over the mind of the Sultan; she gains it in proportion as England loses it.

The results are evident. Austria is devoting her energies to rescue Montenegro, Roumania, and Servia from the influence of the Russian Protectorate and to substitute her own. Now, Germany has exerted, and still does openly exert, her influence, to induce the Sultan to yield to the will of the Powers on the question of the new Montenegrin frontier, in order that Montenegro, whom the Government of Vienna cause to be constantly watched and guarded by their own fleet, may acknowledge that she owes it to Austria, and as the political faith of Mr. Gladstone and the traditions of France remain constant to the Greek cause, so do the sympathies of Germany and Austria become more and more luke-warm and averse to action. Germany chooses this very moment to demand harshly from the Greeks the payment of an old Bavarian debt of a few millions. For this backwardness on the part of Germany and Austria, which is very cold, if not absolutely hostile, there are two reasons. The first is, that whatever is agreeable to Mr. Gladstone's England and Gambetta's France is displeasing to the two German Emperors. The less apparent reason is, that Austria does not wish to limit herself to Novi-Bazar; she wishes to extend her frontier to the shores of the Ægean and to Salonica, and in her opinion she would succeed the more easily were Turkey still further dissolved or driven from Europe and Greece weakened rather than strengthened. Mr. Gladstone has a keen perception when it is a question of the redemption of a people, and perfectly understands the state of the case.

Austria, increased on the Adriatic, is already prepared to seize the shores of the Ægean and the Iron Gates. Russia, who is thinking of vengeance, but knows not what pretext to advance. France, who no longer has a traditional foreign policy, acts with a consciousness of her own strength, and more readily against the weak than against the strong.

And England, full of healthy and honest purpose, but embarrassed by Asiatic affairs, has not found in any of the Continental Powers a trustworthy supporter to aid in preventing the old traditions of usurpation from prevailing over the rights of nations. The England of Mr. Gladstone is opposed at the same time to the Russian and to the Austrian supremacy, because she protects the people and their rights. But there is no doubt that she either does not wish, or does not know how to depart from, this gilded and splendid programme as long as her adversaries are united in their decision to act upon it.

But what is Italy doing in the midst of all these intricacies? Truth to tell, we know neither to what end she is working, with whom she is allied, or to whom she may be opposed. Evidently we are not with France, as is shown by the Tunisian affair. On the Turco-Greek question, if we incline to Gladstone and the Greek cause, we range ourselves in opposition to Germany and Austria. On the other hand, with regard to the Danube, it is clear that our traditions urge us to prevent the acquisition of the monopoly by any great State, Russia, Austria, or England, of the freedom of navigation from the Principalities to the mouths.

We have learnt with the utmost astonishment—can it be true?—that in this question Italy has supported the pretensions of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

We do not understand our Government. Can it not, without injury to the interests of the country, break through this mysterious silence, and tell us what is its foreign policy. If it cannot do this, let it only conduct itself so that there may be no doubt as to whom we are in systematic opposition, and as to whether it is following a safe and consistent line of conduct, and does not allow itself to be the toy of the waves and of chance.

No. 611.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 508.)

My Lord, *Vienna, August 23, 1880.*

WHEN I called this afternoon at the Foreign Office I found that the Austro-Hungarian Government had just received the written text of the note by which the Porte offered to carry out the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro.

M. de Kállay said that he should not by himself have been able thoroughly to understand it, but he had fortunately been able to discuss it with an officer who had been employed on the Montenegrin Frontier Demarcation Commission, and the explanations which his knowledge of the localities enabled him to give made it, in M. de Kallay's opinion, sufficiently clear that there was no material difference between the language that had been held by Abédine Pasha and that of the written note.

Its terms seemed to preclude the supposition that the Porte intended to intimate that Kuči-Kraina should be restored to Albania, for it only spoke of the Treaty frontier at Podgoritza and on the Lake of Scutari, which are quite removed from the above-named district.

To this observation it may perhaps be added that the Turkish Government could not by any possibility have intended to give a general application to their proposal to adhere to the Treaty frontier, which, while retaining Kuči-Kraina to Turkey, assigned Gusinjé and Plava to Montenegro.

But although no claim appears to be made for the restoration of Kuči-Kraina, there is an expression in the note which may perhaps cover a pretension on the part of the Porte which M. de Kállay regards as wholly inadmissible.

During the sittings of the Delimitation Commission, there had been much discussion as to the point where the new frontier should reach the Lake of Scutari.

The Treaty of Berlin had fixed it at Plaonica, stating at the same time that the country of the Grudi was to remain to Albania; but the Commission found that Plaonica was wrongly laid down in the Austrian Staff Map, and was, in fact, situated much nearer the old Montenegrin frontier.

The map had never been formally attached to the Treaty, and the Turkish Commissioner insisted that the line must be drawn agreeably to its distinct words, and without regard to a map that had no official authority; and he further contended that the country which would be given to Montenegro, if the Plaonica of the map was accepted, belonged to the Grudi, who were admittedly to remain Albanian.

Both these pleas were rejected by the other Commissioners, who decided to be guided rather by the evident intentions of the Plenipotentiaries at the Berlin Congress than by the letter of the Treaty as regards Plaonica, and who further were of opinion that there were no grounds for the assertion of the Turkish Commissioner, that the strip of country in dispute belonged to the Grudi.

The frontier marked upon Captain Sale's map was consequently adopted, five out of the eight Commissioners having been in its favour, while the Turkish Commissioner abstained from voting, and those of Russia and Montenegro voted for a line running still further into Albania.

M. de Kállay considers it necessary to bear all these circumstances in mind while examining Abédine Pasha's note, for it is stated therein that from the Lake of Scutari "la ligne de démarcation sera celle qui résultera de l'application sur le terrain des points indiqués dans le Traité de Berlin," and it may be right at once to inform the Porte that the question regarding Plaonica cannot be reopened, and that the frontier of the Commission must be maintained.

If, however, no *arrière-pensée* is concealed under the sentence above quoted from Abédine Pasha's note, and if the Porte consents that the frontier of the five Commissioners from the Lake of Scutari to the bridge over the Zem should be followed as proposed by Messrs. Green and Lippich, but should then bend so as to leave to Albania the small portion of Gruda territory, which, including Dinosi, lies on the right bank of that river, M. de Kállay thinks that the offer merits serious attention and examination.

The line adopted by the Powers upon the recommendation of Messrs. Green and Lippich is, he says, undoubtedly open to the objection that it assigns to Montenegro part of a district which by the Treaty was to be left to Albania, and that by it the tribe of Gruda would be cut in two, which was as far as possible to be avoided, and as the Gruda country around Dinosi is but a very few square miles in extent, M. de Kállay thinks that it would be better to defer returning an answer to Abédine Pasha's note till the exact meaning of his offer is ascertained.

The difficulty of treating such matters as this satisfactorily by telegraph is so great that M. de Kállay scarcely thinks that he will attempt to do it, but he will write by post to the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, and will put him fully in possession, for communication to your Lordship, of the opinion he has come to upon Abédine Pasha's note, after discussing the question with the staff officer to whom I have alluded, without whose assistance and knowledge he would have found it difficult to form one.

He will send to M. Hengelmüller at the same time an explanatory map, without which it is very difficult thoroughly to understand the position, and in reply to my request he has been good enough to promise to have a copy made for me, which will be forwarded to your Lordship with this despatch if I receive it in time, and, if I do not, by the next post.

I have endeavoured to convey to your Lordship, as accurately as I was able, the substance of M. de Kállay's language, but you will no doubt find my report less complete than the communication which M. Hengelmüller will be instructed to make to you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 612.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27, 1 P.M.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August 26, 1880, 11·20 P.M.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has finally agreed to approve contract for thirty-eight Russian non-commissioned officers, made by command [?] during his Excellency's absence, and reported in my telegram No. 80 and despatch No. 321; twenty-five more have been engaged, and are preparing to start from Odessa. I likewise learn from trustworthy source that further large number are to follow. Urgent want of sergeants is excuse given. Any capable Bulgarian sergeants have been discharged. It is evidently intended to form at once all three bans of the militia, thus raising military force to full strength at the end of first year, contrary to spirit of Article 391 of Organic Statute. If energetic protests were made, Governor-General would be willing, I think, to refuse to sanction employment of Russian sergeants not actually on their way.

(Secret and Confidential.)

His Excellency told me a few days ago, in strict confidence, that he is failing to check increase of Russian influence here, at which he is much alarmed. The chief point, he said, in the programme agreed upon by the agitators at Slivno was to do what Russia told them.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 613.

Vice-Consul Maling to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, August 27, 1880.*

THE day before yesterday the hired Austrian steamer "Saturno" passed with 1,200 Turkish troops, bound to the Island of Crete.

No. 614.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, publication of new law would be desirable.

Colonel Wilson's report goes home by to-day's mail, via Varna.

No. 615.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 27, 1880.*

MR. CARTWRIGHT remains here to see to the printing of the remaining Protocols; this is absolutely necessary.

No. 616.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buyukdéré, August 27, 1880.*

I THINK it would be better not to present Protocols until they are complete; there are five more to come. The printing of them has been delayed by the printing of the new law, but they will leave this to-day week at latest; the remainder of the printed despatches can be sent to me *Poste Restante*, Homburg, and I can at once prepare them for Blue Book according to your direction.

No. 617.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 513.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 27, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicates to me the following telegram:—

"In case the English Government, in view of the changes of front of the Porte, thinks it best to maintain simply our former demand with a naval demonstration, the Emperor would be ready to agree. If, however, the Cabinets, on account of the confusion as regards the frontier to the east of Lake Scutari, prefer to demand the immediate surrender of Dulcigno and its district as a pledge of the sincerity of the Porte, and to reserve the decision of the remainder for further examination, His Majesty would consent. This examination might be made with the projected map which has been announced by Austria."

Our impression is that the written proposal of the Porte is meant to leave them free to raise the question of the Kuči Kraina, and possibly other districts, and that it will be dangerous for the Powers to abandon the programme of the collective note.

But, in order to maintain the concert of the Powers, we are ready to accept the second alternative mentioned by Russia, which corresponds with the course advocated by France.

We will do nothing, however, until we hear what the Austrian Government think. If they agree, the omission of the word "complete" ought to render the proposed instruction to Mr. Goschen acceptable to all parties.

No. 618.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 27, 1880.*

GERMAN Government wish to know what the Powers think of the Austrian modifications before deciding about instructions to naval Commanders.

Meanwhile, German ship has been ordered from Malta to Brindisi, on her way to Ragusa.

No. 619.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 437.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 27, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to Green's telegram of 24th August, you should remonstrate against conduct of Turkish authorities at Scutari in allowing volunteers from that town to take up a position on the Mogura Mountain without opposition.

No. 620.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 563.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1880, 3:30 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram No. 81, Mr. Goschen has been instructed to remonstrate against the conduct of the Turkish authorities at Scutari.

No. 621.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27, 7·45 P.M.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 27, 1880, 5 P.M.

ITALIAN Government have intimated their concurrence in the modifications of the instructions to the Admirals suggested by Austria, but the French Government have declined to agree to the condition by which the Commander-in-chief would have authority over the other Commanders.

They have said that their ships would not be ready at Toulon before the 6th September, and, without refusing to take part in the demonstration, have brought forward restrictions to be placed on the operations which would, if they are agreed to, be fatal, in M. de Kállay's opinion, to the benefit to be expected from it.

No. 622.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 421.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1880.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt by Mr. Green's telegram No. 81 of the 24th instant that a number of volunteers have been allowed to leave Scutari and take up a position on the Mazura Mountain, which commands Dulcigno. I have accordingly requested your Excellency by telegraph to address a remonstrance to the Turkish Government against the conduct of the authorities at Scutari in offering no opposition to such a proceeding.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 623.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 573.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me yesterday and communicated to me the inclosed telegram, which he had received from his Government.

Her Majesty's Government are under the impression that the written proposal of the Porte is intended to leave them free to raise the question of the Ruči-Krajna, and possibly of other districts, and that it will be dangerous for the Powers to abandon the programme laid down in the collective note; but in order to maintain the concert of the Powers, Her Majesty's Government are prepared to accept the second alternative mentioned by Russia, which corresponds with the course already advocated by France.

Her Majesty's Government will, however, come to no decision till they have ascertained the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government. If they should be willing to agree to the second alternative, the omission of the word "complete" ought to render the proposed instruction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople acceptable to all parties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Adams (No. 417), Mr. Macdonell (No. 501), Lord Odo Russell (No. 459), Sir H. Elliot (No. 512).

No. 624.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 484.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and informed me that his Government had received from that of Austria the amendments which the latter were desirous to see introduced in the instructions to the naval Commanders of the squadrons detailed for the naval demonstration off Dulcigno.

The Italian Government, however, having already signified their consent to the original draft as proposed by us, felt that they could not accept any alterations without our concurrence. They were ready to come to an agreement with Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

General Menabrea added that their great object was to maintain the European concert, and to act with England in order to bring the matter to a conclusion as soon as possible.

I told his Excellency that we were discussing the alterations of the instructions with the Austrian Government, and that I would inform his Government as soon as possible of the result, which I believed would be satisfactory.

As regards the Montenegrin frontier itself, I said that the French Government believed that the written answer of the Porte was meant to be identical with the previous verbal communication made by Abédine Pasha, and objected only to the cession of Dinõs. The Austrian Government, though not confident, inclined also to this view.

We ourselves were disposed to advise an answer to the Porte which should accept the offer to surrender Dulcigno and press for its immediate execution, and this was a course which seemed to recommend itself also to the Russian, Austrian, and French Governments.

But the question, how the remaining points should be treated, still remained for the moment under discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 625.

Earl Granville to Musurus Bey.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1880.

YOU did me the honour of communicating to me some days ago a despatch from your Government calling attention to the difficulties to which the Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria are exposed in establishing their claims to their property, and suggesting that a Consular Commission should meet to devise measures for protecting their rights.

I have the honour, in reply, to inform you that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General has been in constant communication with the Bulgarian Government on this subject; and that, owing to his representations and those of the other foreign Representatives, the vexatious regulations in regard to the production of title-deeds were cancelled, and a Decree was promulgated under which a Commission was to be appointed, composed of five Mussulmans and five members named by the Municipality, to decide upon the proportion in which the Mussulmans whose property had been destroyed for the purpose of improving the town should be indemnified. According to a recent despatch from Mr. Lascelles, it appeared that the Council, whose operations had been delayed by the resignation of its members, was about to enter upon its duties.

I shall have much pleasure in referring to Mr. Lascelles, for his good offices, any cases in which Mussulman proprietors may be exposed to unjust treatment which you may be authorized to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, but the information which I have received does not lead me to think that there is at present any occasion for the appointment of such a Commission as Abédine Pasha suggests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 626.

Consul Sanderson to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Galatz, August* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Political, Confidential, dated 9th instant, on the subject of arms being sent from Russia into Bulgaria, I have the honour to report that the information I have now received gives the approximate amount forwarded from Reni up to date as from 50,000 to 60,000 rifles, 8,000 cases of rifle ammunition, and as many as 10 field batteries—*i.e.*, 80 mountain guns (information from another source gives the number as 6 batteries, 48 guns).

There appear to be forty Bulgarian soldiers at Bender and the same number at Reni charged with the superintendence of the removal of this material; a few days since it was understood that these men were about to return to Bulgaria, but it seems that they have now received counter-orders, and expect that some further shipments will be made.

I understand that the orders sent from Kischeneff directing the authorities at Reni to be prepared to find quarters for cavalry have not been cancelled, but that it is not expected that these quarters will be required immediately. It is said that from 40,000 to 45,000 Russian troops are about to be concentrated at Bender for autumn manœuvres, and that it is probable that a portion of these troops will proceed to Reni afterwards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 627.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 28.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Corfu, August* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that the enrolment of recruits and volunteers continues in these islands, but not to the extent that the statements in the papers would lead one to expect. The calling out of the reserves is as unpopular as ever, and I am told that numbers are continuing to evade the law by absconding.

Amongst the volunteers that have offered themselves are some Mussulmans from the opposite coast, about twenty in number, but who I have ascertained are of the lowest and poorest class, and who would do anything for money.

Greek regular troops are being moved up from Patras to Santa Maura—300 men of the 4th Regiment of the line have already arrived—and the transport that brought them has returned for more, I have not been able to learn how many.

None but recruits, I hear, have arrived here from the islands, and of which there are now about 500 being actively drilled. There are about 200 volunteers here who are also being drilled.

With regard to what we hear is going on on the opposite coast, I have further the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have just received from Vice-Consul Onofrio of Santa Maura.

I have just heard from a reliable source that Abédine Pasha has called his aged mother to Constantinople, for which place she left some ten days ago by a Government steamer. Many other Albanian families have also left for Constantinople, anticipating, no doubt, possible troubles in this quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 627.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Santa Maura, August* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to you the following intelligence respecting the state of affairs on the other side of the border:—

1. The Austrian Lloyds' steam-ship "Ungheria" disembarked yesterday at Prevesa

1,560 Nizams from Beyrout; other troops to reinforce the army in Epirus being expected to arrive in the course of next week. A Turkish transport, which arrived at Prevesa last week, landed a large quantity of military stores, as well as a considerable amount of specie from Constantinople. Large quantities of ammunition and war material from Prevesa were this week forwarded to Arta, which place is being placed in a proper state of defence. The monitor and gun-boat that arrived at Prevesa on the 8th instant, and to which I alluded in my preceding despatch of the 15th, are intended for the defence of the Gulf of Arta; torpedoes will be also laid down.

The recruiting and organization of Albanian irregulars is also being actively proceeded with, it being authoritatively stated that twenty "tabors" have already been completed and equipped.

2. The Delegates sent by the Albanian Mussulmans of the district of Prevesa to attend the Grand Council of the League recently held at Argirokastro returned to Prevesa a few days ago. Except that a stubborn resistance to annexation of Epirus to Greece has been unanimously determined upon, nothing else has as yet transpired as to any other decisions that may have been taken by that assembly.

3. A Greek subject, Dr. Spiro Socolis, medical practitioner at Prevesa, has been ordered to leave the Turkish territory, being suspected of intimate connection with the Patriotic Committees in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 628.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 780. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 25, 1880.

BARON DE COURCEL called upon me this morning to speak upon various matters, and I availed myself of the opportunity to revert to our conversation on the 23rd instant, as recorded in my Very Confidential despatch No. 775 of that day.

I said that I had been thinking over all that had passed between us during our last interview, and that I could not help feeling that my Government might again (as I had told M. de Freycinet on the 13th instant had already been the case) entertain the opinion that the French Government were holding back and not acting entirely in concert with us. He had told me, I remarked, that England was in fact the only country on which France could really rely, and it seemed to me, speaking as a friend to France, that it would be very unfortunate if my anticipation should prove correct. What would then be the position of France? The present Cabinet were not, I believed, any more than the preceding one, in favour of an alliance with Russia; the Duc Decazes had injured himself by courting that alliance. Again, although the Tunis question of the day was settled satisfactorily to France, as he had told me on the 23rd, it did not follow that Italy was satisfied, and he must know well enough that she would feel inclined to do France a bad turn if an opportunity offered; that Germany might not be sorry to see it done, and that Austria was bound to Germany. If, then, anything should occur to bring about a change of feeling on the part of Her Majesty's Government, owing to the supposed holding back of France, she would run the danger of being entirely isolated.

I should explain that I put this as a mere hypothesis, for I assured M. de Courcel that I had not heard from your Lordship on this subject since my last interview with him. My object in holding such language was simply to foreshadow the disappointment which might be felt by Her Majesty's Government, and to suggest to the French Government the importance of preventing the continuance of such a feeling, and of joining more heartily with Her Majesty's Government, who, I am careful to repeat on all occasions, wish for nothing better than to find themselves in perfect accord with France on every question.

M. de Courcel answered that, after all, the situation of his country had been one of isolation since 1870, and if there was a change in the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, France could only regret it and bear it as best she could. But he positively denied that there was any drawing back on the part of his Government; he had laid before me in detail, and with the greatest frankness and sincerity, the position of his country; he had told me what the Government could, and what they could not do. They would act with Her Majesty's Government cordially as far as diplomatic action was concerned; they had at once agreed to the terms of the proposed rejoinder to the Porte on

the Greek frontier question, but they could not take part in any measure which might lead to complications tending to a resort to violence or arms. The French ships would certainly go to Dulcigno if the Turks showed bad faith as to its cession; but in the temper of the country, and in view of their responsibility towards the Chambers, the French Government could not send their ships there if it was only to take part in some impossible action with reference to the fixing of the frontier line inland. He trusted Her Majesty's Government would appreciate France's position, and believe in the sincere desire of the French Government to act with them as far as it was possible, but always within the limits indicated.

After some further conversation I said that, as he had been so open with me, I would read to him my Very Confidential despatch No. 775 of the 23rd instant, in order that I might be certain that I had reported his language accurately to your Lordship, and I accordingly read it to him.

M. de Courcel was good enough to say that I had written a very faithful report of our conversation, and the only remark he would make upon my despatch was, that he considered I had gone too far when I described the French Government as reluctant to join in any naval demonstration at all.

I replied that this was the impression which had been left upon me, and I was sorry that the French ships had been further delayed.

M. de Courcel repeated that, as far as Dulcigno was concerned, they would certainly join in the demonstration if the Turks showed bad faith, and he added that the contingent had now actually sailed from Brest for Toulon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 629.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 27, 1880.*

I HEAR, from an authenticated source, that Ministers disclaim intention of gaining Kuči Kraina by written answer, but admit they would gain something in the Planitza Plain.

No. 630.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August 27, 1880.*

RUSSIAN Consul has informed Governor-General, in presence of M. Grouitch, Servian Agent at Sophia, that he will shortly be charged with interests of Servian subjects in Eastern Roumelia.

No. 631.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 86. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August 28, 1880.*

I AM informed on good authority that Russian Government proposed to Austria, about a fortnight ago, to secure to her full possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided she agrees to a Bulgarian union.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 632.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the day before yesterday respecting Macedonia, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me confidentially that every preparation has already been made to bring on a Bulgarian rising in Macedonia, which is to break out the moment the Eastern question is actively reopened; that from Prince Alexander downwards all classes of Bulgarians are, in opposition to the Greek, Servian, and Mussulman elements which form together the majority of the population of Macedonia, implicated in the projected insurrection; and that the great friendly demonstrations held at Sophia on the occasion of Prince Milan's birthday were merely intended to mislead Servian public opinion.

His Excellency added that the question of the possession of Salonica was of vital importance to the Great Powers as well as to Servia. He probably apprehends seeing Bulgaria bar the advance of Servia towards Salonica, for, in common with most of his countrymen, he considers that port the only natural outlet for the commerce of the Principality.

No. 633.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 28, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 502.

The Italian Government entirely concur in the opinion expressed by your Lordship to Sir H. Elliot, and have instructed their Ambassador to agree to the omission of the word "complete" if it is accepted by Her Majesty's Ambassador.

No. 634.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, August 28, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed on good authority that the Bulgarian Government have advanced 60,000*l.* to Eastern Roumelia.

No term is fixed for the repayment of this sum, which bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

No. 635.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's No. 460, Prince Hohenlohe is acquainted with Russian proposal, and he will be ready to support either course as soon as the other Powers are agreed.

No. 636.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

ASCERTAIN from Prince of Montenegro if he will be prepared to send troops to occupy Dulcigno district, under protection of the fleets, when invited by the Powers to do so.

No. 637.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 566.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government accept the modifications in the draft instructions for the Commanders at the Duleigno demonstration proposed by the Austrian Government. A draft corrected accordingly will be sent by post.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

No. 638.

Earl Granville to the Acting British Consul-General at Odessa.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880, 8 P.M.

IT is stated that Russian non-commissioned officers are being sent in large numbers from Odessa to Eastern Roumelia.

Make inquiries privately, and report any reliable information on the subject that you can obtain.

No. 639.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Stephens' telegram of the 26th August, you should have a look-out kept at Varna.

No. 640.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 426.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the despatch from M. de Kállay to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, of which a copy is inclosed,‡ containing the views of the Austrian Government with regard to the instructions which should be given to the Commander of the squadrons which we are about to take part in the naval demonstration which it is intended should be held off Duleigno.

Your Excellency will see that the draft Instructions proposed by the Austrian Government differ from the draft which was forwarded in my despatch No. 448 of the 15th instant principally in omitting the instruction for the Commander to enter into communication with the Albanian leaders, as had been contemplated by Her Majesty's Government, in order to come to an arrangement for the peaceful settlement of the frontier.

Her Majesty's Government do not think that this form of arrangement is open to all the objections which the Austrian Government have advanced against it, as the position of the Albanian tribes differs essentially from that of ordinary insurgents; but at the same time they have no desire to urge it upon the acceptance of the Powers, and are consequently ready to omit all mention of it from the instructions to be given to the British Admiral, and to accept also the other modifications desired by the Austrian Government.

I inclose a draft of the Instructions corrected according to the draft proposed by Count Kallay, and have to request that you will ascertain whether the Russian Government are prepared to adopt the instructions as thus modified.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 515), Lord Odo Russell (No. 461), and Sir A. Paget (No. 503).
† Also to Lord Odo Russell and Mr. Macdonell.
‡ No. 559.

Inclosure in No. 640.

Draft of Instructions to the Admiral in Command of the Mediterranean Station.

(A.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August* , 1880.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you the accompanying copies of notes which have been exchanged between the Representatives at Constantinople of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin and the Porte respecting the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier.

You will see from this correspondence, and from the other papers relating to the subject which have been forwarded to you, that the Porte has before it two proposals for the frontier: *one for a cession* of territory inland, north of Lake Scutari, to which it assented in the Agreement signed at Constantinople on the 15th April; and the other, a proposal made by the Ambassadors on the 26th June for a rectification of frontier to the east and west of Lake Scutari, which, on the side of the sea, should extend the territory of Montenegro as far as the mouth of the Boyana, including Duleigno.

On the 3rd instant a collective communication, of which a copy is inclosed, was made to the Porte, in which the Ambassadors stated that unless the April Agreement was carried out within three weeks the Porte would be expected to join the Powers in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the Duleigno district under the alternative plan.

On the 5th instant a memorandum was unofficially presented to the Porte, of which a copy is also inclosed, indicating the rectification of frontier intended to the east of Lake Scutari.

The Porte has objected to the proposals for this rectification of frontier to the east of the Lake, but has accepted in principle the cession of Duleigno and the district mentioned by the Powers to the west of the Lake.

The period of three weeks, however, expired on the 24th instant without this district having been surrendered, and the object of the present naval proceedings is to carry out the note of the 3rd instant by supporting the Prince of Montenegro in taking possession of it.

Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the Government of Austria upon the following instructions for the guidance of their respective naval Commanders:—

The combined fleets are to support the military action of the Prince of Montenegro in taking possession of Duleigno, but troops are not to be landed or operations undertaken on the shore.

The Commanders of the ships forming part of the expeditionary fleet are to be under the supreme command of the Senior Admiral in rank, and should he be temporarily absent, the next senior in rank is to act in his place.

Her Majesty's Government understand that your seniority in Her Majesty's naval service will confer the command upon you, and that this is the intention of the Austrian Government.

In all questions of a purely military nature the Commander-in-chief is to act independently. In political questions he is bound to come to an understanding with the Commanders of the several divisions of the fleet. Should such an understanding not be arrived at, each Commander is to report to his Government on the question at issue, and any further action is to be suspended until the Powers have come to a decision. The Commanders, however, will have to comply with a military order from the Commander-in-chief, even in this case, under written protest, if necessary.

On your arrival at Ragusa you should place yourself in communication with the Commanders of the squadrons of the other Powers represented, and it will be advisable that you should concert with them how the joint naval force may most effectively be displayed off Duleigno.

When this shall have been decided by the Commander-in-chief, he will address a summons to the Governor of Scutari and the local authorities of the town of Duleigno to deliver up the town and the territory of Duleigno to Montenegro. If the agents of the Porte declare their consent to this, the Commander-in-chief is at once to inform the Prince of Montenegro, and to call upon him to advance his troops and take possession of Duleigno. Should the Turkish authorities decline, and declare that they have no instructions from the Porte, or should they agree to the transfer in principle, but declare that it cannot be practically accomplished in consequence of the opposition of the Albanian population, then, after a delay of three days to be allowed to the Turkish authorities for the purpose of obtaining orders from the Porte, the Prince of Montenegro is to be informed as soon as possible, and invited to take possession of Duleigno by

military means, with an assurance of support from the fleet. In this case, the Commander-in-chief is authorized to order, on his responsibility, all measures on the part of the fleet that may appear conducive to such support, and which do not involve any operations on shore.

Should the Prince of Montenegro fail to comply with the invitation of the Powers to advance his troops in either of the cases above mentioned, you will report to Her Majesty's Government by telegraph and await further instructions.

You will keep their Lordships fully informed, by telegraph and by despatches, of all that occurs, sending duplicates of all your communications to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

No. 641.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1200.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome, inclosing a draft of Instructions Her Majesty's Admiral modified in accordance with the suggestions of the Austrian Government.

Her Majesty's Government have every reason to believe that these Instructions will now be adopted by the Governments of the other Powers, but as the French Government still hesitate about giving orders to their Admiral, I have to request that you will communicate the draft to M. de Freycinet, point out to him that it is only intended to insist on the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and inquire whether he is prepared under these circumstances also to adopt them, or, if not, in what form he proposes to send instructions to the French Admiral so as to give as little publicity as possible to any divergence which may exist with regard to the extent of the action in which the French vessels of war may take part.

Her Majesty's Government presume that the Admiral will in any event be directed to be present with the ships under his command off Dulcigno, and to take part in any communications which it may be decided should be made to the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No 642.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 428.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government accept the modifications proposed by Austria in the draft of Instructions for the Admiral in command at the naval demonstration off the Dulcigno coast.

A draft, corrected accordingly, will be forwarded to you by post.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No 643.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 98.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

I HAVE to request that you will inquire of the Prince of Montenegro if he will be prepared to dispatch troops to occupy the district of Dulcigno under the protection of the combined fleets on receiving an invitation to do so from the Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, and Mr. Macdonell.

No. 644.

Earl Granville to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

WITH reference to my letter of the 24th instant, I have to state to your Lordships that I have received a communication from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, of which a copy is inclosed, suggesting certain modifications in the draft Instructions to be given for the guidance of the Commanders of the squadrons which are to take part in the naval demonstration off Dulcigno.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, Berlin, Rome, and St. Petersburgh, informing them that Her Majesty's Government agree in these modifications, and directing them to ascertain whether the draft as thus amended will be adopted by the Government to which they are respectively accredited.

Your Lordships will see that the Austrian Government recommend that the fleets should rendezvous at Ragusa instead of at Cattaro, and I have to suggest that orders should be given for Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour to proceed there as soon as he can. Upon learning from your Lordships that such orders have been given, I will instruct Captain Sale to join the Admiral's ship at Ragusa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 644.

M. de Kallay to M. de Hengelmüller of August 22.

[See No. 559.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 644.

Earl Granville to Lord Dufferin.

[No. 426 and Inclosure (No. 640 above)].

No. 645.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1880.

WITH reference to Earl Granville's letter of this day's date to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I am directed by his Lordship to inclose two drafts of further instructions to Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 645.

Draft of a Despatch from the Secretary to the Admiralty to Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

(B.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August* , 1880.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Count Kallay* inclosing the instructions given by the Austrian Government to their Commander in the Adriatic.

Her Majesty's Government have, as you will have seen by my despatch of the instant, adopted these instructions; and they have reason to believe that the instructions will be also adopted by the German, Italian, and Russian Governments.

I am also to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch on the

* No. 559.

subject which Lord Granville has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome,* and copies of the replies received from them will likewise be forwarded to you.

I am, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 645.

Draft of a Despatch from the Secretary to the Admiralty to Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

(C.)
(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August* , 1880.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the French Government are not at present inclined to direct their Commander to adopt the instructions upon which Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the Austrian Government, and that they are unwilling that their Commander should either himself act as Commander-in-chief or be under the authority of any other Commander, and are disposed to give him special instructions.

I inclose a copy of a despatch† which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, directing him to inquire whether the French Government will adopt the draft Instructions agreed upon by the British and Austrian Governments, and, if not, what orders they intend giving to their Commander.

You will be informed of the reply and of any further communications which may pass with the French Government on the subject.

I am, &c.

No. 646.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Kara Kilissa, August* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the proceedings of the Asiatic Boundary Commission since its arrival on the frontier, and to explain the telegrams which I had occasion to send from thence.

The Turkish party and my own encamped in the valley between Zivin and Karaourgan, close to the frontier, on the afternoon of the 14th July. As I had kept General Zelenoi constantly informed of my movements I had fully expected to find him on or near the frontier. I had no news of him, however, till the 18th, when an officer arrived with a letter from him, saying he had reached Sary Kamish on the 16th, and inviting his colleagues to join him there, and, using that place as a depôt, to make excursions from thence to the frontier.

Sary Kamish is about 16 miles on the Russian side of the frontier on the road to Kars. It was formerly a small village, but is now the head-quarters of an entire Russian infantry regiment, besides cavalry, and is growing rapidly into a town. Here General Zelenoi had established himself very comfortably.

In reply to his invitation I represented to him that, being quite prepared to proceed along the frontier, encamping at such points as might be necessary, I should only find myself hindered by going to Sary Kamish, and begged him to meet his colleagues on the frontier without delay. He had mentioned in his letter that more conveniences for constructing the boundary marks would be found at Sary Kamish than elsewhere, and I therefore pointed out, in my reply, that, by a clause of Protocol 2, Great Britain was exempt from participation in that work; and that, in my opinion, the delimitation, so far as I was to take part in it, might be effected, and my party at liberty to return home, in a very short time.

I heard nothing more of him till the evening of the 20th, when he arrived with his party at Karnourgan, and sent an officer to his colleagues to propose a *séance* for the following morning. We met accordingly, when it was arranged that the joint topographical party should be divided into two sections of three officers each, to work simultaneously upon two parts of the frontier, one from Karaourgan to Medjingert, the other from

* No. 640. † No. 641.

Medjingert to the Araxes. But he then went on to announce that as he had received strict orders from the Government of the Caucasus to have the boundary marks erected along the line as soon as the successive parts should be delimited, he would not proceed beyond the Araxes until that portion of the work should be complete and also personally inspected by him. I protested against this delay as altogether unnecessary, inasmuch as ample time would remain after the delimitation for the fixing of the marks, and in this I was supported by the Turkish Commissioners, nevertheless, he persisted in his determination, and also in returning to Sary Kamish next morning to prepare for their construction. On asking for further particulars as to the intended nature of the marks, I found they were to be pyramids 3 feet high, built of stone with a base, painted and numbered, that no workmen were as yet at his disposal for the purpose, that it was doubtful if sufficiently skilled masons could be found near the frontier, that the stones and mortar must be conveyed to the different points, and that the number of the marks was as yet unknown. Under these circumstances, he could not, evidently, fix a time for their completion, nor could any estimate have been relied on. I urged him to commit the work to other officers and to proceed throughout with the delimitation, but this he declared to be impossible.

On my proposing that the topographical party should begin work next morning, he said they were unprepared to remain and must return to Sary Kamish, but would be at Medjingert, prepared to remain, on the evening of the 23rd. They did not appear (giving no explanation why) till the evening of the 24th, that is to say, ten days after the rest of the Commission had arrived on the frontier. Considering that General Zelenoi had been long before appointed Commissioner, and had been in communication with me throughout our movements through Armenia, and that he was engaged in an international duty with a military party, this unreadiness cannot be considered creditable to him as the officer in charge. I never received any explanation of it, though I often adverted to it.

It further appeared that he estimated six days as necessary for the work of the topographical party, and announced that he would rejoin the Commission on the 30th for the purpose of considering the reports of the officers and thereupon fixing the line. I said I believed three days would suffice (which proved correct), and asked him what he proposed to do in case of their finishing sooner than he expected. He replied that on being apprised of it he would endeavour to come earlier than the date he had fixed.

Your Lordship will perceive that the absence of a Commissioner from an International Commission at his pleasure cannot be warranted by any orders he may have received from his own Government, and that the independence General Zelenoi assumed would have rendered it impossible for me to act with him. But as I could not oblige him and his officers to remain, I contented myself with the protests that will be found in the Protocol, and sent the telegrams of the 22nd and 24th July to your Lordship.

I had, moreover, to bear in mind the duty of completing with General Zelenoi the Khotour business, and consequent expediency of postponing possible disagreements. I told him I would go to Sary Kamish on that business from my camp at Medjingert on the 26th July. I went accordingly, accompanied by Captain Everett. General Zelenoi very kindly invited me to stay in his camp, but, in view of the very serious remonstrance I intended to address to him, I thought it better to quarter myself in a house in the village. By the afternoon of the 28th the Khotour business was done, and as soon as the papers were sealed and addressed I inquired what course General Zelenoi now proposed to take in the business of the Commission. Finding that he not only meant to persist in the resolutions he had announced, but intended, after the conclusion of the delimitation up to the Araxes, to return to Sary Kamish and there remain till the boundary marks should be ready for his inspection, I told him (in perfectly courteous terms and manner, which were preserved throughout), that I had felt it necessary to warn my Government of the difficulties he was raising in the path of the Commission, and that I trusted my messages were already conveyed to the Russian Government; that neither the Commission nor myself were subject to the orders of the Russian Government, and that I could not, as President of the Commission, assent to a delay upon such grounds. In attempting to justify the delay, he imprudently let some arguments escape which would almost warrant a belief in an intention on his part (which I should, however, be sorry to attribute to him) to place difficulties in my way. He observed that as the English Government had, uninvited, insisted on taking part in the Commission, it could not complain if the proceedings were conducted without reference to its convenience (a matter which, I observed, it was not for him to refer to); that Major Clarke had caused a great deal of delay last year (on which I remarked that Major Clarke would probably ascribe the delay

to General Zelenoi, but that it was a topic which I declined to discuss); that he was extremely dissatisfied with the concessions made by General Stebnitzky, and had recommended his Government not to ratify them; and that he was also displeased because the Commission had not, as he desired, assembled at Tiflis. I then told him that if, as seemed likely, he made it impossible for me to act with him, I should, for my own justification, demand an inquiry into his course as Commissioner; that I should greatly lament the failure of the Commission, but should throw the responsibility of it on him. I observed that for him to await idly at Sary Kamish the completion of the boundary marks was a pure waste of time, and (as it was at that time assumed that the Commission would visit that portion of the frontier east of the Kassa Dagh) I requested him to spend the interval in accompanying me thither. He was evidently much shaken in his intentions by what I had said, and replied that though he would not go himself, he would consider whether he could spare an officer to accompany me. His own officers came in from Medjingert while I was with him, reporting the completion of their work on the preceding day. I pointed out that another day was now lost by his absence from the Commission, and requested him to come next day to Medjingert, which he agreed to, after which I returned thither.

Next day, instead of appearing, he sent me a note excusing himself on the score of preparing for the boundary marks, and also of the need of providing an escort for the visit to the frontier, but promised to come the following day. In reply, I said that I had since reconsidered the question of visiting the eastern part of the frontier; that, as the Treaty required the watershed to be the frontier throughout, no modification was possible there, and it only remained to ascertain the watershed in the passes, which could be done with certainty by the other Commissioners when they should fix the boundary marks there; that the rest of that part of the frontier was inaccessible; and that I should propose, with the consent of my colleagues, to mark the watershed on the Russian map, which had been proved an excellent and completely reliable one, without visiting the locality. I also said that I trusted he would come next day prepared to proceed at once with the work between the Araxes and the Kassa Dagh; and I ended by remonstrating strongly (in carefully courteous terms) against his continued absence from the Commission, and his apparent desire to regulate its proceedings without reference to his colleagues. On his appearance next day, the General said he had felt hurt at what I had said in this note, and asked if I meant it to be official or private, as, if official, he must forward it to his Government. I begged him by all means to do so; upon which he dropped the subject, and assured me that he desired to pursue the most conciliatory course possible, and would detail an officer at once to proceed with the topographical party to the frontier between the Araxes and the Kassa Dagh, as soon as we had finished the first portion; and that he agreed with me entirely as to the uselessness of visiting the frontier beyond the Kassa Dagh. He also agreed to rejoin the Commission at Kara Kilissa on the day when the topographical party would have finished their work there.

It was after this conversation (at the close of which, as he seemed still to have my letter on his mind, I requested him to consider it private, if he so wished) that I telegraphed to your Lordship that matters were taking a more hopeful turn.

That evening and next day *séances* were held, when the frontier from Karourgan to the Araxes was finally fixed; and, the inutility of visiting the western frontier being unanimously admitted, the line of it was traced on the map. General Zelenoi promised to come to Kara Kilissa on the 6th August, on which day, it was calculated, the preliminary work would be complete.

He came accordingly, and has remained ever since; and at the next day's *séance* the remainder of the line from the Araxes to the Kassa Dagh was finally agreed to and traced. It now only remained to place the frontiers on the maps, to write the Acts which verbally record the frontiers, to sign and seal them, and to complete and sign the Protocols. All this was completed this day, and I start this afternoon for Constantinople by Kars and Tiflis, taking with me a signed copy of each Protocol, of the Act, and of the map, for transmission to your Lordship.

While the course taken by General Zelenoi at first has occasioned a certain loss of time, it is evident that the delay thus caused has been small to what might have taken place had he been allowed to proceed without remonstrance. And it will, perhaps, be considered, in view of that course, that it would have been very unfortunate for the progress of the Commission that it should have assembled, as he proposed, for its preliminary discussions at Tiflis.

I desire, however, to record that our relations have been friendly and cordial throughout, and that, since his arrival at Kara Kilissa, he has co-operated effectively in the

business of the Commission, with his officers, who are excellent topographers, and have done very valuable work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 647.

Captain Swaine to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Volo, August* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship duplicates of my despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 1 in No. 647.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Volo, August* 18, 1880.

ON the 14th instant I had the honour to address the following telegram to your Excellency through Vice-Consul Longworth:—

"Captain Swaine reports that since 25th ultimo 2,400 men have passed through Volo homewards against 1,600 who have arrived. Soldiers are discontented, and many have deserted; the older men are clamouring for their discharge. Rations are scanty and bad; contractors refuse supplying troops. Supply of ammunition in province fair; none lately imported here. At present the fresh arrivals appear intended rather as an exchange for the discontented, who are being discharged, than as a reinforcement of the army in Thessaly. Sent home."

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. V. SWAINE, *Captain,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 647.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Volo, August* 18, 1880.

I REPORTED to your Excellency last week from Salonica that the general impression there was that, were the Sultan in the hour of desperation again to call upon his soldiers to fight for him, that they would certainly do so.

I have used similar language in former Reports, and I am prepared to stand by it still.

However, since my arrival in Volo, from inquiries I have made from the few troops I have seen—a fair specimen I am told of those in the rest of the province—had I not such strong belief, I should be disposed somewhat to modify the extent of resistance they are likely to make to an advancing Greek force, backed up as it will be by the Christian population in the whole of this province.

We saw during the late war how easily disheartened, and what a rabble, the Turkish armies became when obliged to retire.

The army in Thessaly is in a lamentable state. The contractors have for some time past struck work, as they were providing food but receiving no payments in return. The Pashas are obliged to go here and there and borrow a few pounds to purchase bread for their troops. Meat the private hardly ever sees. The tithes have now been collected, and for the moment the grain can be exchanged for flour, and thus bread can be baked. This cannot last much longer.

It is estimated that about 500 men have deserted into Greece, and are there supported by the Greek Government.

Insubordination is a far too common crime, and all the old soldiers are clamouring to be sent home.

The Government is riding the willing horse to death. As long as the tolerable good and ample rations were still forthcoming the Turkish soldier, who never thinks of the rainy day, was satisfied to go on without his regular money payments. But since the latter continues to be withheld, and the former is getting less and less, and worse and worse, discontent has set in in a strong degree, and invectives against the Government and against the Pashas are far too common to insure that ready obedience so necessary in time of war.

On the other hand the Turk, though little of a patriot, as with other nations who would fight for house and home, is a strong fanatic. In spite, therefore, of what I have said above, I still believe that were the Sultan as Caliph, in the last hour, to call upon his co-religionists once more to stand by him and oust the Ginour who wants to possess the land, his trumpet then would be as readily answered as it now is daily at sunset when each soldier and sailor gives a ringing cheer which wishes "Long life to the Padisha."

Yet how long this first onslaught would last it is impossible to say. War of itself is not likely to produce the means wherewith to provide rations and ammunition, although mosques and treasuries might be despoiled for that purpose.

As soon as the Greek army enters the province the population will rise in its support; and if it strikes hard and quick the present discontent among the Turkish soldiery may prove a strong ally to Greece.

The question that remains is whether Greece is in a position to act quickly and to strike hard.

What I saw of her army five months ago did not impress me greatly with its strength and stamina. If carefully led, it is possible, especially so in Thessaly, where the people would find her the necessary transport, and where, as she advances, crowds would enrol themselves under her standard, that a success at the beginning of the campaign, or the sudden occupation of one or two strategical points, might cause consternation and discouragement, and if rapidly followed up might result in a satisfactory issue.

But I deem it impossible, however ready and anxious the people may be, that Greece can raise an army strong enough to cope single-handed with the Turkish forces in the open. Enthusiasm produces confidence; and, as a rule, is pretty certain to secure victory, especially over an army where discontent has taken such root. But no Turkish force can be judged by a European standard. In it we have to deal with a factor greater than ordinary enthusiasms. Religious recklessness, possessed by such men as compose the Sultan's army, is a power that must neither be despised nor underrated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE, *Captain, Military Attaché.*

No. 648.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 352.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 23, 1880.*

IN accordance with your Lordship's wishes, I have communicated to M. de Giers the draft instructions Her Majesty's Government proposes to issue to the Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron, and I, at the same time, acquainted his Excellency with your desire, that the international fleet should rendezvous at Palermo, and that, in proceeding to the neighbourhood of Dulcigno, it should avoid approaching the coast of South Albania.

M. de Giers expressed himself as generally favourable to your Lordship's views, and yesterday evening he informed me that instructions similar to those drafted for the use of the British Admiral will be sent to the Russian Rear-Admiral Cremer, now stationed at the Piræus, and that orders had been given to the commanders of the other Russian vessels to place themselves under the command of the English Admiral, should they happen to arrive at their destination before their own Admiral.

The Russian squadron will consist of three ships, but, as one of these is at present at Cadiz, some time may elapse before she joins her consorts. The Russian Admiralty, however, consider that Cattaro or Ragusa will be a more convenient place of rendezvous than Palermo.

M. de Giers regrets that it should be impossible for the international fleet to reach the neighbourhood of Dulcigno by the 24th August, and he considers that, at all events, the Porte should be at once notified that the three weeks' term named in the collective

note having expired, a naval demonstration will take place, and that preparations for its execution have commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 649.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 354.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 23, 1880.*

I HAVE had the honour of informing your Lordship by a telegraphic despatch on the 18th instant (No. 130), that the Russian Government is willing that the rejoinder to the answer to the Porte relative to the Greek Frontier question should be drafted by Her Majesty's Government, in the sense which has been suggested in your Lordship's telegram No. 500. M. de Giers entirely concurs in the suitability of the language it is proposed to be used.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 650.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 355.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 24, 1880.*

I HAVE communicated to M. de Giers the substance of M. de Freycinet's suggestion with regard to Montenegro as conveyed to your Lordship in Mr. Adams' telegram No. 71 of the 7th August, and I now forward his Excellency's observations thereon, a summary of which I telegraphed last night (see my telegram No. 140).

M. de Giers considers that it would be well that Turkey should surrender Dulcigno at once, and by doing so show her desire to acquiesce in the decision of the Powers. The other parts of the arrangement might be allowed to stand over for the present. He does not agree, however, with the French Government in thinking that any further delay should be accorded to the Porte for carrying the proposed surrender into effect. On the contrary, he is of opinion that the naval demonstration should take place immediately. He feels, however, that the Montenegrin business is getting very confused, and he has asked me to beg your Lordship to formulate a distinct proposal which everybody would understand. He would be quite ready to undertake this task himself, were it not for the fear of any initiative on the part of Russia exciting suspicion.

His Excellency entirely concurs in your Lordship's suggestion, that the international fleet should keep at a distance from the South Albanian coast, nor, as at present advised, does he see any objection to the Russian squadron going to Palermo, but before giving a definite answer upon this point he must consult the naval authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 651.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 358.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 13, 1880.*

M. DE GIERS informed me to-day that he had received a communication from M. de Novikoff similar to that conveyed in your Lordship's telegram No. 492, to the effect that a further change had taken place in the attitude of the Porte towards Montenegro, and that the Minister of War with 4,000 men was leaving for Scutari at once, with the alleged intention of carrying out the Corti arrangement, or, if that were impossible, of enforcing the Dulcigno proposal, provided another three weeks were granted for the execution of the latter arrangement.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 494, I took occasion to insist on the necessity of the European Cabinets displaying firmness and a united front to the Porte in reference to all the pending settlements, and that, in

your Lordship's opinion, it would be desirable to abide by the terms of the last collective note with regard to Montenegro.

M. de Giers informed me in reply that he quite agreed; that Russia was ready to send ships, and that it was time to come to an arrangement as to the supreme command of the international fleet. The Emperor, he added, would be quite willing to put his squadron under the command of an English Admiral.

His Excellency further stated that in his opinion the naval demonstration should be persevered with, even though the Porte should promise to yield to the demands which had been made upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 652.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 359.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1880.

M. DE GIERS informed me this afternoon that he had learnt by telegram from Cettinjé that Grouda does not form any part of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro, and that Janoseh (as M. de Giers wrote the word down), or rather Dinosi, is an insignificant, ruined, and indefensible village, which could be taken possession of at any time, and that consequently the Prince of Montenegro would not be averse to closing with the Turkish proposition for the immediate cession of Dulcigno; but that, though the surrender of Dulcigno would be so far satisfactory, he (M. de Giers) was of opinion that, in any communication to be made to the Porte upon this subject, it should be forcibly stated that Europe must still maintain all the original demands comprised under the Dulcigno Project.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 658.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 21, 1880.

YESTERDAY I forwarded to your Lordship by telegraph a summary of the observations which His Majesty the Emperor of Russia addressed to me during the course of the manœuvres, to the following effect:—

"His Majesty notified to me in strong terms his concurrence with your Lordship's draft of the proposed rejoinder to the Turkish reply to the collective note.

"His Majesty was also pleased to express his satisfaction at the good understanding which had been established between Russia and England.

"In reference to Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, His Majesty, though still regretting the policy which had resulted in the separation of the provinces from the Principality, gave me his personal assurance that nothing could be more unfounded than the suspicions propagated throughout Europe, principally by the Austro-Hungarian press, with regard to the intention of the Russian Government to upset the settlement arrived at at Berlin in regard to Eastern Roumelia."

I have sent a copy of the foregoing sentences to M. de Giers, with the request that he would submit them to the Emperor, in order that I may be quite sure that I have not misrepresented His Majesty's sentiments.

On reading what I had written, M. de Giers said he was quite certain my version was correct, and I hope shortly to receive the Emperor's "imprimatur" to my memorandum.

General de Schweinitz, my German colleague, informs me that he also had mooted with His Majesty the question of the alleged preparations for revolution in Bulgaria, as evidenced by the importation of warlike material, and the advent of Russian officers and soldiers. In reply, His Majesty had assured him that the reports to which he referred were gross exaggerations, and that nothing was being done beyond what had been arranged for when the Prince of Bulgaria was here. The nature and extent of these arrangements, as General de Schweinitz reminded me, I had already communicated to

your Lordship in my No. 311 of July 27. General de Schweinitz seems to have been well satisfied with His Majesty's assurances, but although, as I have already stated to your Lordship, I am myself quite convinced that it is the present desire and intention of this Government to discourage all efforts at disturbance in the Balkan Peninsula, it is difficult to believe that Russia will ever abandon her design of securing the supremacy of the Bulgarian nationality in the provinces surrounding Constantinople, or relax her efforts in preparing for the wished-for consummation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 654.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 362.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 24, 1880.

ON becoming acquainted with the contents of Mr. Stephen's telegram No. 80 of the 10th August, in which he informs your Lordship of the preparations made for the transmission of arms and ammunition into Macedonia, and of the alleged intention of the Bulgarians, in the event of a conflict breaking out along the Greek frontier, to declare the union of Eastern Roumelia with the Principality, I thought it advisable to ask M. de Giers whether Russia would have the power, as he had assured me she had the intention, to prevent any revolutionary action on the part of the Bulgarians.

His Excellency asserted in the most positive manner that Russia would be quite mistress of the situation, and in a position to prevent any such catastrophe, that nothing could be more moderate than the present temper of the Emperor, and that whatever the distant future might bring forth His Majesty had abandoned the desire even of seeing the union of Roumelia and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 655.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 364.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1880.

IN consequence of M. de Giers' absence from town, I have not been able, until to-day, to submit to his Excellency the text of your Lordship's rejoinder to the Porte in reference to the Greek Frontier question, as telegraphed in your No. 532 of the 19th August.

I had already acquainted M. de Giers with the general drift of this document, which had been transmitted to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 500, of the 13th August, and he authorized me to inform your Lordship that, though he will still have to submit the draft to the Emperor, he has no doubt His Majesty will instruct M. de Novikoff to sign it, and that I may report to your Lordship accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 656.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 366.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1880.

THE day before yesterday I communicated to M. de Giers your Lordship's proposed instruction to Mr. Goschen in reference to the Montenegrin question, repeated to me in your telegrams Nos. 538 and 539 of the 21st August.

M. de Giers seemed very much satisfied with their purport, and informed me that, though he should be obliged to submit the matter formally to the Emperor, he had little doubt His Majesty would agree to send instructions in a similar sense to M. de Novikoff.

This morning, however, when I called at the Foreign Office, I found that since my last

conversation with his Excellency, both France and Austria had taken exception to some of the terms of your Lordship's proposed rejoinder, on the ground that there was no essential difference between the verbal and the written replies of the Porte to the collective note, and, on the part of France, that they were too summary and severe now that the Porte was showing a willingness to accede to the demands of the Powers.

These communications, on the part of France and Austria, have been anything but pleasing to the Russian Minister, who assured me that he entirely agreed with your Lordship's view of the case, both as regards the discrepancy between the two communications from the Porte, and the necessity of continuing to hold firm and peremptory language in order to obtain a speedy settlement.

His Excellency then read to me two telegrams he had received from Prince Lobanoff containing an account of his conversation with your Lordship on this subject, as well as the draft of one to the Russian Ambassador in London, which had been prepared for submission to the Emperor, couched in something like the following terms :—

"The Russian Government would be prepared to concur with that of Her Majesty in insisting on the immediate and complete execution of all the terms of the Dulcigno Project, but should the English Government think it desirable in the presence of the difficulties which have arisen to postpone the consideration of that part of the Project which affects the frontier to the east of Lake Scutari, and which includes Dinosi, the Russian Government would be willing to acquiesce and to accept the immediate surrender of Dulcigno as an instalment, provided the Porte is warned that the other demands comprised in the settlement are strictly maintained."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 657.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1880.*

I GATHER from Mr. Green's telegram No. 77 of the 22nd August, which has been repeated to me in your Lordship's No. 548 of the 23rd August, that some misunderstanding has arisen with reference to my telegram No. 131 of the 16th instant.

Though M. de Giers undoubtedly stated to me that, Dinosi being an insignificant, ruined, and indefensible village, of which the Prince of Montenegro could take possession at any time, His Highness was disposed to close with the Turkish offer for the immediate cession of Dulcigno, I did not understand, nor did I mean to imply, that the Prince was prepared to abandon his claim to Dinosi altogether; on the contrary, my telegram expressly states that, although the Russian Government would consider the immediate cession of Dulcigno as so far satisfactory, they thought that all the original demands comprised in the Dulcigno settlement should be strenuously maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 658.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 386.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 21, 1880.*

I HAVE this day telegraphed to your Lordship to explain that not having been yet made acquainted with the subject of the notes telegraphed to Mr. Goschen and Lord Dufferin, mentioned in your Lordship's message of yesterday, I have not been able to ask Prince Hohenlohe to authorize Count Hatzfeldt to act upon them at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 659.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 387. Private and Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 21, 1880.*

WITH reference to my previous No. 384 I called on Prince Hohenlohe, and told him that I was instructed to ask that the German Ambassador at Constantinople should be authorized to sign a note, the text of which I had not yet received. His Highness had the goodness to send for the Under-Secretary, and, after going through the telegrams received from other Powers, we concluded that the note must be the rejoinder to the Porte's reply about Greece, and Prince Hohenlohe, to save time, gave orders that Count Hatzfeldt should be authorized, by telegraph, to sign in concert with his colleagues the note proposed by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 660.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 390.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 24, 1880.*

PRINCE HOHENLOHE, to whom I communicated, yesterday, the drafts of the telegrams your Lordship proposes to send to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the Porte's last note about Dulcigno, Dinoshi, and Gruda, requested me to-day to inform your Lordship that he had telegraphed to Count Hatzfeldt in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 661.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 392.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 24, 1880.*

WHEN I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day what decision the German Government had come to respecting the instructions to be sent to the Commanders of the fleets in the Mediterranean respecting the naval demonstration, his Highness said that the German ships would be placed under the orders of the Senior Admiral, but that he would say no more until he had seen the modifications proposed by Austria to the instructions suggested by Her Majesty's Government, and that he would also be glad to know your Lordship's opinion before taking any further decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 662.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 395.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 27, 1880.*

IN reply to a question of mine, Prince Hohenlohe tells me that he is waiting to know the opinion of the Powers in regard to the modifications proposed by Austria before deciding about the instructions to be sent to the Naval Commanders, meanwhile, however, the German frigate "Victoria" had been ordered to proceed to Brindisi on her way to Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 663.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 401.)
Berlin, August 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I SPOKE to Prince Hohenlohe to-day on the subject of the Russian proposal communicated to me last night by your Lordship respecting the adherence to the collective note and naval demonstration, or the immediate surrender of Dulcigno and its district, as a pledge of the Porte's sincerity, and his Highness assured me that the German Government were agreeable to either course, and would pronounce themselves as soon as the other Powers had come to a decision and were agreed upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 664.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received August* 30.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, August 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that written orders have this day been sent to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour to proceed to Ragusa with an iron-clad and a despatch vessel in addition to his flag-ship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 665.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, August 29, 1880, *midnight.*

THREE hundred Mahommedan volunteers from Kalkandelen are entering Scutari to-day. The Roman Catholic tribes are being secretly urged by Turkish emissaries to reinforce themselves at Touzi.

Riza Pasha asserts to the Christians that Dulcigno will have to be surrendered, and to Mussulmans that the April Convention must be executed. For my part, I think the safest course to follow would be to treat all the preparations for resistance now making as *bonâ fide*, and to refuse to accept the assurances of the Porte until its proceedings here are in agreement with its promises. No excuse of want of power to enforce obedience should [?] be considered valid.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 666.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, August 30, 1880.

THE Emperor has sent me word that the version of my conversation with him is correct, but he wishes me to suppress the reference to Austria. I have designated the words to be omitted in another telegram.

No. 667.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 449. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 30, 1880.

WE heard from Corfu a report that Zarifi, the Greek banker at Constantinople, has bought from the Porte all the Government property in the districts of Janina, Arta, and

Prevesa. This was at the beginning of the month. The agent was then supposed to be at Corfu with the Iradé, on his way to take formal possession. But I have heard no more.

No. 668.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 446.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 30, 1880, 5·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 187.

The draft note on Armenian question has our entire approval. The sooner it can be presented the better.

No. 669.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 194. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, August 30, 1880, 11·55 A.M.

SULTAN sent Aide-de-camp to me to-night with a letter from private Secretary stating that His Imperial Majesty would see with pleasure that English Consul at Scutari should assist [groups wrong]. His Majesty, firmly hoping that this assistance will facilitate solution of pending question, expresses his desire that I should report [groups wrong]. I have replied that Her Majesty's Government is very desirous to further the solution of the Montenegrin question, and that our Consul at Scutari has made every possible effort to suggest practicable arrangements, the acceptance of which might enable the Porte to surmount the difficulties which it has met in the execution of its engagements. I hoped that the circumstances would permit him to continue in this course; but I could not give precise [groups wrong] to facilitate the task of Riza Pasha till I had been informed as to the tenour of the orders he had received, and as to the arrangement which he had been instructed to carry out.

I should see Minister for Foreign Affairs to-morrow, and I should rejoice if I could inform my Government that a solution had been arrived at which would enable us to authorize our Consul at Scutari to give it all his support.

No. 670.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30, 11 P.M.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 30, 1880, 6·55 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 513.

M. Kállay does not think the omission of the word "completeness" would be sufficient to prevent the note proposed by you from being open to the same objection as he made to the French proposal.

He maintains that the whole question of the frontier should be decided upon now, leaving nothing behind for future discussion; and that, if the Turkish offer is to be accepted, it should be accepted entire, and the demand for Dinosi abandoned. The proposal of the Austrian Government would, he believes, meet the requirements of the case, and his last reports make him understand the Russian and Italian Governments to be ready to concur in it; but he makes no point of holding to it, and if the other Governments wish to adhere to the terms of the original collective note, Austria will join them.

If also the Porte means that the frontier should be drawn from Phonica (*sic*), according to the words of the Treaty, and the other Powers are ready to make their concession, he will agree, without insisting upon his proposal to follow the frontier of the Commission; but, whatever course is adopted, he considers that, in any answer to the Porte, the intentions of the Powers ought to be so clearly stated as to leave no room for further misunderstanding or discussion, and that the demand for the cession of Dinosi should be either maintained or abandoned.

No. 671.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 30, 11 P.M.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, August* 30, 1880, 10·30 A.M.

BRITISH Consul at Bourgas telegraphs that thirteen more Russian serjeants arrived last Thursday; more are expected by next steamer. Total number arrived, twenty-five.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 672.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 576.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh, Berlin, and Rome,* inclosing a draft instruction for the Commanding Officer at the Dulcigno demonstration modified according to the instructions communicated to me by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires on the 24th instant, and requesting them to inquire whether the Power to which they are accredited are ready to adopt the instructions thus modified.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Adams on the subject of the demonstration,† and I have to request that you will inform Count Kállay of the substance of these despatches, and communicate to him a copy of the draft instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 673.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 264.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1880.

HAFIZ PASHA, the Minister of Police, whose name is doubtless familiar to your Lordship in connection with the Koelle case, has been dismissed.

The reasons that have induced the Sultan to take this step are, I believe, correctly given in the inclosed extracts from the local press.

His Imperial Majesty has, I am informed on good authority, been for some time past dissatisfied with Hafiz Pasha, both on account of his conduct with regard to money spent by him in excess of the sum assigned to his Department, and of his annoying respectable women in the streets of Constantinople, by causing them to be arrested for not being sufficiently closely veiled. I am told that on the occasion mentioned in Inclosures 2 and 3 in this despatch, the fact that he publicly used the word "Giaour" particularly annoyed His Imperial Majesty.

Your Lordship will see that this last incident has led to his being tried by court-martial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 673.

Extract from "La Turquie" of August 19, 1880.

LA Commission de la Gendarmerie, avons-nous dit, dans la révision des comptes de la police, avait découvert une somme de 42,000 piastres dépensée par l'ex-Ministre Hafiz Pacha pour le compte d'une section de son Département n'ayant qu'une allocation de 10,000 piastres.

Il résulterait des dernières informations que ce n'est pas pendant un mois que la somme excédante a été gaspillée, mais bien pendant six mois consécutifs, de sorte que

* No. 540. † No. 541.

le déficit s'élève aujourd'hui à 252,000 piastres, que Hafiz Pacha devra payer de ses deniers particuliers.

La Commission a reconnu en outre que Hafiz Pacha a reçu de la Caisse des Dépôts une somme de 16,000 piastres qu'il devra également rembourser personnellement, cette somme ayant été reçue illégalement par l'ex-Ministre de la Police.

Inclosure 2 in No. 673.

Extract from "La Turquie" of August 16, 1880.

LES journaux Turcs ont ces jours derniers parlé des sévérités exercées par le Ministre de la Police et ses agents à l'égard de certaines dames Turques dont le costume de promenade aurait été, de l'avis du Ministre, inconvenant.

Parmi ces incidents on cite le fait de l'arrestation d'une demoiselle de 15 à 16 ans qui, accompagnée d'une domestique, était entrée dans le conak du Colonel Chehab Bey. Quelques agents de police ayant cru que cette demoiselle n'était pas suffisamment voilée ont voulu l'amener au Ministère. Le Colonel Chehab Bey a fait une opposition tellement énergique que Hafiz Pacha a eu recours à la force pour faire prendre cette jeune fille et la conduire à la police.

Chehab Bey ayant protesté contre la violation de son domicile et ayant demandé réparation, Sa Majesté le Sultan, sur la demande du Ministre de la Guerre, a ordonné la formation d'une cour-martiale qui statuera sur la conduite de Hafiz Pacha.

La cour-martiale a tenu hier sa première réunion. Abid Pacha, Général de Brigade d'Etat-Major, et Arif Bey, fonctionnaire supérieur du Ministère de la Justice, rempliront le rôle du Ministère Public dans ce procès.

Inclosure 3 in No. 673.

Extract from "La Turquie" of August 17, 1880.

LES journaux Turcs continuent leurs critiques contre Hafiz Pacha, Ministre de la Police.

Voici ce que nous lisons dans le "Vakit" à l'égard de ce fonctionnaire:—

"Nous apprenons qu'il vient d'être constaté que Hafiz Pacha, Ministre de la Police, ne tenant pas compte des allocations budgétaires allouées à une des sections placées sous sa dépendance, a dépensé dans l'espace d'un mois la somme de 52,000 piastres alors qu'il n'était autorisé à dépenser que 10,000 piastres.

"Le Conseil de la Gendarmerie siégeant au Ministère de la Guerre, a décidé de retenir cet excédant de dépenses, soit 42,000 piastres, sur les appointements du Ministre."

No. 674.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 270.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rhodes, the one relating to the rumour of an intended attack by Turkish brigands on a British vessel, and the other respecting the arrival at Rhodes of the Procureur-Général of the vilayet to investigate certain complaints against the local Courts of Justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 674.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Goschen.

Rhodes, August 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a telegram was received here on the 27th ultimo by the French firm of P. Masse and Co. from Captain Davies, of the British schooner "Isabel," now loading valonea for them at Djovata on the coast of Asia Minor, to the effect that he, the master, had been informed that a band of Turkish brigands from the interior were meditating an attack on his vessel.

Immediately on learning this from Messrs. Masse and Co. I communicated the matter to the Governor of Rhodes, who, at my request, telegraphed it at once to the Vali at Scio, and begged that the gun-boat at his Highness' disposal might be sent to Djovata, the Government steamer here being unable to move owing to an accident to her machinery. Our Governor at the same time telegraphed to the Kaïmakam of Mongla, the district in which Djovata is situated, urging him to send troops to the latter place. Replies were immediately received from both quarters, stating that the desired measures had been taken without loss of time. Messrs. Masse and Co. told me at the same time that they had telegraphed to their correspondent at Smyrna, desiring him to inform Her Majesty's Consul there of the circumstances.

Since the late act of piracy at Akkioï rumours of occurrences of a similar character have been rife in these parts, but inquiry has in every case proved them to be idle inventions. The fact that the "Isabel" is anchored (as I am informed) a furlong from the shore, and that a ship laden with acorns would offer a less tempting as well as a less easy prey to land robbers than the agents employed in purchasing the produce in the country districts, naturally suggests a doubt whether the report heard by the master of that ship rests on any better foundation. In any case the prompt and energetic measures taken by the Turkish authorities will doubtless suffice to avert all danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 674.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Goschen.

Rhodes, August 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the members of the Consular body here found it necessary some weeks ago to address the Governor of Rhodes officially on the subject of the irregularities and abuses of every sort committed in the local Courts of Justice, evils which are mainly attributable to the President of the Civil Tribunal, and of which the native communities complain much more bitterly even than the foreign residents.

The Consuls requested his Excellency to inform the Vali at Scio of their complaints, and expressed the hope that his Highness would see fit to cause a judicial functionary to be sent to Rhodes to investigate the charges preferred by them.

To-day the members of the Consular body have been officially apprised by the Governor of Rhodes of the arrival here of the Procureur-Général of the vilayet for the purpose requested. This functionary, Latfullah Effendi, is a Maronite of Beyrout; and it is a good sign that his Highness the Vali has not hesitated to charge a Christian official with the duty of investigating accusations against a member of the Ulemâ; for the President of the Civil Tribunal is at the same time Cadi of Rhodes. He was appointed to this double office under the late reactionary Ministry, seven or eight months ago, and belongs to the more bigoted and narrow-minded, as well as less scrupulous, type of his class.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 675.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 271.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Vice-Consul Dalziel respecting military matters in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 675.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the "Ezriff," towing a lighter, arrived here from Rheni on Wednesday, the 11th instant.

This arrival consists of 2 batteries Krupp field pieces, 16 guns, with their attendant tumbrils, a number of boxes shells, and about 1,344 boxes small arms ammunition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

P.S.—In addition to the foregoing, 65 boxes—*i.e.*, 1,460 Berdan rifles—were landed at the railway station, and at once sent to Schumla, and three Schlepps, loaded with ambulance waggons, were towed up the river, I am told, for Lom Palanka.

W. H. D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 675.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a certain Mustapha Effendi has been deputed by the Mussulman population here to ask the opinion of the Sheikh-ul-Islam as to whether they can lawfully bear arms for the Bulgarian Government in the approaching conscription.

I cannot help expressing my opinion that it would be very much in the interest of these people if they would acquiesce in the orders given, and take their places willingly in the Bulgarian army. I cannot think of anything more calculated to wipe out the memories of religious and race feuds than service in the ranks alongside their fellow-countrymen, and I should hope that in six or seven years of such admixture all old scores will be forgotten.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 676.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 274.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1880.

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship, with my despatch No. 260 of the 3rd instant, a copy of a preliminary Report by Colonel Wilson on his visit to Macedonia.

Your Lordship will remember that it was there stated by Colonel Wilson that Achmet Aga, who was condemned to death for his share in the Batak massacre, had been appointed Mudir of the Nahié of Dospat. This capital sentence was subsequently commuted to perpetual exile, and the culprit finally included in a general amnesty, when, as was reported to the Foreign Office, Ahmed Aga, of Barytina, and Milte Bektash were allowed to return to Eastern Roumelia.

I at once spoke to Abédine Pasha on the subject. His Excellency seemed surprised at the statement, and promised to telegraph at once to the Vali of Salonica and make the

necessary inquiry. I renewed my inquiries on several occasions, and finally was informed by his Excellency that a telegram had been received from the Governor-General of Salonica, stating that there was no Mudir, nor Mudir *ad interim*, of the name of Achmet Aga at Dospat, or any other commune in that vilayet.

Colonel Wilson, who has recently returned from visiting that part of the country, has furnished me with a Report respecting what he learned on the spot with regard to Achmet Aga's employment there, the substance of which I have embodied in a note to Abédine Pasha. I have the honour to inclose copies of both these documents for your Lordship's information, together with a tracing explanatory of the circumstances which led to the formation of the Nahié of Dospat.

Your Lordship will notice the uncertainty which existed as to the limits of the boundary laid down by the European Commission, which Colonel Wilson states was not marked on the ground.

I have lately received from Mr. Stephen, a copy of whose despatch is inclosed herewith, the astonishing information that Achmet Aga has been offered a post in the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia!

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 676.

Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Buyukdéré, August* 14, 1880.

IN compliance with your Excellency's request, I have the honour to furnish some additional particulars respecting the Nahié of Dospat, in the Vilayet of Salonica, of which Ahmet Aga, of Baratina (Baratinkoi on Kiepert's map), was Mudir at the time of my visit to Macedonia.

At Philippopoli I was informed by the Secretary-General, M. Christovich, that nine or ten Moslem villages close to the frontier, in the Department of Tatar-Bazardjik, had not given in their adherence to the Government of Eastern Roumelia. This was confirmed by the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik, who added that no one knew exactly where the boundary ran, and that the villages had been formed into a nahié, called Dospat, under Ahmet Aga, of Baratina, who had taken a leading part in the Batak massacres; he also stated that the taxes and tithes were collected by Ahmet Aga for the Vilayet of Salonica, and that the district was in a very disturbed state.

On my arrival at Nevrokop I had a conversation with the Kaïmakam respecting the boundary between his caza—which includes Dospat—and the Department of Tatar-Bazardjik. He told me that he did not know the position of the frontier, and that he was waiting for the arrival of the Turco-Roumelian Commission, which had been charged with the duty of marking the boundary on the ground. On my alluding to the labours of the European Boundary Commission last year, he said he knew nothing about them, as the Commission visited the country before his appointment as Kaïmakam, but that he understood that the Commission had given the Vilayet of Salonica nine villages which formerly belonged to Tatar-Bazardjik. About five months previously these villages, with a few others, had been formed into the Nahié of Dospat, and Ahmet Aga appointed Mudir. The nahié was placed under Nevrokop.

The Kaïmakam also informed me that the villagers of Darlen having begged him to transfer their village to Tatar-Bazardjik, he had replied that it was not in his power to authorize the transfer, and that they must wait for the arrival of the Boundary Commission.

The two zaptiehs from Nevrokop who accompanied me to Batak, always mentioned Ahmet Aga as Mudir of Dospat, and in the Valley of Dospat itself I had a conversation with one of the zaptiehs serving directly under the orders of Ahmet Aga, as well as with several villagers who were working in the fields; all spoke of Ahmet Aga as Mudir, and of Baratina as his seat of government.

There can be no question that, at the time of my visit, Ahmet Aga, of Baratina, who I was repeatedly told was Ahmet Aga of Batak notoriety, was Mudir of Dospat.

The accompanying tracing will serve to explain how the necessity for the new nahié of Dospat arose.

The boundary between Eastern Roumelia and the Vilayet of Salonica, as fixed by the Treaty of Berlin, differs materially, in the Dospat district, from that which existed

previous to the war. The effect of the change is to exclude from Eastern Roumelia the Dospat Valley, which formerly belonged to the old Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik.

The boundary was not marked on the ground by the European Commission, and no steps appear to have been taken to point it out to the local authorities at Tatar-Bazardjik and Nevrokop, or to the villagers immediately concerned; nor were any maps supplied to the Government of Eastern Roumelia and Salonica.

Considerable uncertainty thus prevailed as to the exact position of the boundary; it was known that the Commission had given a portion of the Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik to Nevrokop, and as the Roumelian authorities did not at once move up to the new frontier, the Kaïmakam of Nevrokop believed that the villages unoccupied by the Roumelian Government had been assigned to his caza. As the district was at a distance from Nevrokop, it was formed into a nahié, and Ahmet Aga, as Mudir, thus governed a group of villages partly belonging to Eastern Roumelia and partly to Salonica.

I understand that after I left Philippopoli the boundary was marked on the ground, and this having been done, it was probably found that there was no longer any necessity for a separate nahié, or for the retention of Ahmet Aga as Mudir. This may explain the recent answer of the Porte, that there is no Nahié of Dospat, and no Mudir named Ahmet Aga. The population of the Dospat Nahié, with the exception of a few families of Guruks, who winter near Salonica, is entirely composed of Pomaks, or Moslem Bulgars. The people are naturally hard-working and peaceably disposed, but since the war the district has been in a disturbed state, and on the new frontier there has been a sort of "no man's land," in which the Moslems killed every Christian they met, and the Christians every Moslem. I estimated that about fifty murders of Christians and Moslems had been committed this year—more than twenty Christians were killed on one occasion.

I found the road from Nevrokop to Batak, over which there was formerly much traffic, unused, and, in places, grass-grown; and the general feeling of insecurity in the district was prominently brought to my notice by the villagers in the Dospat Valley, who were in a state of great alarm on account of a rumour that they were about to be attacked by the Christians of the Tchepina Valley, in Roumelia.

The appointment of a man of Ahmet Aga's antecedents as Mudir of a district from which he had drawn a large number of the Bashi-Bazouks who took part in the Batak massacre, and which was within a few hours' distance of that place, seemed to me of sufficient importance to be brought at once to your Excellency's notice.

On my return to Philippopoli I informed M. Christovich that, as far as I could judge, the villagers bore no ill-feeling towards the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and that, as soon as the boundary was marked, those on the Roumelian side would readily give in their submission. I, however, stated my belief that any premature action would probably result in a repetition of the regrettable incidents of Kirdjali. I at the same time expressed a hope that the Boundary Commissioners might be urged to expedite their work, and that the villagers might be liberally treated as regards taxes and tithes which they had already paid to the Caza of Nevrokop. I spoke in the same sense to the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik, who seemed to me anxious to treat the Moslem villagers with every consideration.

The names of the villages in the Dospat Nahié, as given to me, were Despod, Kumikli, Naibli, Ilanja, Karabolak, Diorlu, Baratin, and Chafdarli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 676.

Tracing showing the extent approximately of the Dospat Nahié, and the present and former Frontiers between Eastern Roumelia and the Vilayet of Salonica.

Inclosure 3 in No. 676.

Mr. Goschen to Abédine Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Therapia, August* 23, 1880.

COLONEL WILSON having now returned from his recent visit to Macedonia and Eastern Roumelia, I have endeavoured with his assistance to clear up the doubt which has

been raised as to the reported appointment of Ahmet Aga as Mudir of the Nahié of Dospat.

From the telegrams which your Excellency was good enough to send to me on the 10th instant, I learned that it was affirmed by the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Salonica that no person of the name of Ahmet Aga was to be found either at Dospat or in the other communes of that vilayet, occupying the position of Mudir or Mudir *ad interim*.

In reply, I beg leave to place before your Excellency a summary of the Report, with which I have been furnished by Colonel Wilson, respecting the district of Dospat, through which he passed on his return to Eastern Roumelia from Macedonia, and in which he states that Ahmet Aga, of Baratina, then held the appointment of Mudir.

While staying at Philippopoli, Colonel Wilson was informed by the Secretary-General, M. Christovich, that nine or ten Moslem villages, close to the frontier, in the Department of Tatar-Bazardjik, had not given in their adherence to the Government of Eastern Roumelia. This was confirmed by the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik, who added that no one knew exactly where the boundary assigned by the Treaty of Berlin ran, and that the villages had been formed into a nahié, called Dospat, under Ahmet Aga, of Baratina, who had taken a leading part in the Batak massacre; he also stated that the taxes and tithes were collected by Ahmet Aga for the Vilayet of Salonica, and that the district was in a very disturbed state.

On his arrival at Nevrokop Colonel Wilson had a conversation with the Kaïmakam respecting the boundary between his caza, which includes Dospat, and the Department of Tatar-Bazardjik. The Kaïmakam stated that he did not know the position of the frontier, and that he was waiting for the arrival of the Turco-Roumelian Commission which had been charged with the duty of marking the boundary on the ground.

On Colonel Wilson alluding to the labours of the European Boundary Commission last year, he said that he knew nothing about them, as the Commission visited the country before his appointment as Kaïmakam, but that he understood that the Commission had given to the Vilayet of Salonica nine villages which formerly belonged to Tatar-Bazardjik, and that about five months previously these villages, with a few others, had been formed into the Nahié of Dospat, and Ahmet Aga appointed Mudir, the nahié being placed under Nevrokop.

Two zaptiehs, by whom Colonel Wilson was accompanied from Nevrokop to Batak, always mentioned Ahmet Aga as Mudir of Dospat, and in the Valley of Dospat itself he had a conversation with one of the zaptiehs serving directly under the orders of Ahmet Aga, as well as with several villagers who were working in the fields, all of whom spoke of Ahmet Aga as Mudir, and of Baratina as his seat of government.

The evidence thus collected left no doubt on Colonel Wilson's mind that, at the time of his visit, Ahmet Aga, of Baratina, who was, he was repeatedly told, the Ahmet Aga of Batak notoriety, and who had been, as your Excellency is aware, condemned to death for his share in that business, was Mudir of Dospat, a district from which he had drawn a large number of the Bashi-Bazouks who took part in the Batak massacre, and which was within a few hours' distance of that place.

In proof of Ahmet Aga's position as Mudir of Dospat, I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention again to the statement made by the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik relative to the collection of tithes and taxes by Ahmet Aga, in speaking of which with M. Christovich, Colonel Wilson expressed the hope that the villagers might be liberally treated on the ground that these imposts had already been exacted and paid to the Caza of Nevrokop.

The fact of Ahmet Aga ever having occupied this post could no doubt be ascertained by the Porte with certainty by reference to the Kaïmakam of Nevrokop, who would also be able to state whether the tithes and taxes had already been levied from the villages.

I am bound to say that Colonel Wilson's Report shows conclusively that, although the Governor-General of Salonica states that nobody of the name of Ahmet Aga is now acting as Mudir in the Nahié of Dospat, Ahmet Aga actually did fill that post a short time ago.

I venture, therefore, to suggest to your Excellency that the Porte should, for the sake of its own reputation, examine this matter, as otherwise the charge will rest upon it that a man who had been condemned to capital punishment for the crimes of which Ahmet Aga was accused was subsequently appointed to, and actually did hold, an official position under the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 676.

Mr. Stephen to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Philippopoli, August 5, 1880.*

HAVING learnt, much to my surprise, that at a meeting of the Privy Council it had been proposed to invite Ahmet Aga, Acting Mudir at Dospat, to come to Philibé, with a view of giving him an appointment in the local gendarmerie, I took an early opportunity of inquiring whether the Secretary-General whether the report which had reached me was correct, and whether this Ahmet Aga was the same Ahmet Aga who had been connected with the horrible events which had happened at Batak.

In reply, M. Christovich informed me that he had lately received a telegram from the Commission appointed to mark the southern boundary of the province, stating that, owing to the action taken by Ahmet Aga, the inhabitants of the villages in the neighbourhood of Dospat, which, according to the official map, should be incorporated in Eastern Roumelia, had declared their intention of remaining under the rule of the Sultan. He had consequently called a Council, at which, after a discussion as to the best means to be adopted in the matter, it had been finally decided not to use force, but to endeavour to conciliate Ahmet Aga by summoning him to Philibé, with a promise of an appointment in the gendarmerie.

M. Christovich added that he did not know whether this Ahmet Aga was Ahmet Aga Barantli, who had committed the massacre of Batak, but that he would make inquiries on the subject.

Before taking leave, I could not refrain from pointing out to M. Christovich that if the Ahmet Aga in question was the same whose iniquities had so very lately roused the indignation of the whole of Europe, his appointment to the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia would probably not only produce a distressing, not to say revolting, impression upon the Bulgarian population of the province, but that the news of his employment by the Provincial authorities would be received, I felt sure, in Europe with the greatest astonishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. STEPHEN.

No. 677.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August 31.*)

(No. 276.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas reporting the expected arrival of Russian non-commissioned officers, and other military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 677.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Bourgas, August 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that forty-eight Russian non-commissioned officers are expected here this evening by the Russian mail-steamer from Odessa. The three companies of the Bourgas battalion of militia are to receive a supplement of 160 men per company, which will bring up the effective force of each company to about 230, a complement which is, I believe, consistent with the requirements of the Organic Statute.

Amongst the new recruits there is a larger than usual proportion of Mussulmans and other non-Bulgars. No difficulty is found in the conscription of Mussulmans for the militia, and, if no radical change in the political situation of this province be attempted, I am of opinion that the friction between soldiers of different races will in time help to rub down the present aggressive animus of the Bulgarians against all that is not purely Bulgarian.

The Russian officer commanding the battalion here complains that his Bulgarian non-

commissioned officers are too inexperienced, that the privates do not respect their Bulgar commissioned officers, because they are of their own rank in civil life. If this opinion, whatever may be its grounds, is general amongst the field officers of the militia, it is to be expected that Russian officers will, either at once or gradually, entirely replace or supplant the indigenous element.

The Bulgarian "patriots" still speak openly of the union of this province with the Principality as a question to be solved, and now fix the 28th August (6th September, N.S.) as the date on which it will be effected.

I hear that orders have been received here to-day from Philibé, according to which all employés, civil or military (and private soldiers or gendarmes included), are expected to give up their arrears of pay for July and the first fortnight of August as a contribution to the provincial Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 678.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, in original, a petition I have received from certain Turkish landowners in the Sandjak of Nisch, complaining of their treatment by the Servian Government, and requesting the appointment of a Mixed Commission to inquire into their grievances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 678.

Petition.

A son Excellence le Ministre d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

NOUS avons eu l'honneur de soumettre précédemment à la Sublime Porte deux requêtes consécutives par lesquelles nous demandions que d'après l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin le droit de propriété sur nos fermes et autres propriétés immeubles situées dans le Sandjak de Niche, cédé au Gouvernement Serbe, fut peu reconnu de ce dernier Gouvernement, qui, nonobstant le Traité susmentionné, cherche à nous priver de ce droit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a bien voulu transmettre nos plaintes aux Cabinets des Puissances Européennes, qui malheureusement sont restées sans aucun résultat.

C'est en conséquence de cet état de choses qu'il y a une année nous avons eu l'honneur de soumettre nos plaintes par une requête collective adressée tant à la Sublime Porte qu'aux Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances qui, ayant bien voulu prendre en considération notre demande, ont adressé par l'entremise de leurs Agents les représentations nécessaires au Cabinet de Belgrade.

Ce dernier, en réponse aux représentations des Puissances Européennes, a soutenu que nos plaintes ne se reposaient sur aucun fondement et que le Gouvernement Serbe, loin de porter atteinte au droit de qui que ce soit, il continuait comme il continue, à respecter scrupuleusement les décisions du Congrès de Berlin.

Peu de temps après cette déclaration formelle, et malgré l'esprit de la lettre du Traité de Berlin, la Scuptchina Serbe venait d'approuver un Projet de Loi composé de quarante-trois Articles, ce qui détruit complètement nos droits de propriété.

Votre Excellence appréciant, par la teneur du Mémoire et de la requête collective que nous avons l'honneur de lui soumettre ci-joint, la grande injustice que vient d'être commise en notre égard par les Projets de Lois susmentionnés.

C'est par ces motifs que nous venons de prier votre Excellence de bien vouloir intervenir auprès de qui de droit à ce que, avant l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité de Berlin, une Commission Mixte, composée des Commissaires des Grandes Puissances et du Gouvernement Ottoman, soit constituée afin d'entendre nos plaintes et nous rendre la justice foulée aux pieds par le Gouvernement Serbe.

Tout en maintenant nos plaintes et protestations formulées précédemment

contre le Gouvernement Serbe au sujet de nos fermes et propriétés, nous implorons, au nom du droit des gens, la justice et l'équité des Puissances Européennes.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

Salonique, le 25 Juillet, 1880.

No. 679.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 283. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship has been good enough to forward me a copy of a despatch from Lord Odo Russell, No. 354, Secret, dated Berlin, the 6th August, on the subject of an alleged proposal on my part that the Turks should be allowed to retain Janina. I have already telegraphed to your Lordship to the effect that I am at a loss to understand how Prince Hohenlohe could have held such language as that reported by Lord Odo Russell.

As your Lordship is aware from my telegram, Count Hatzfeldt assured me positively that he had not written a word about any suggestion or proposal made by me. He had simply reported that his colleagues generally, the British Ambassador included, were of opinion that so long as the cession of Janina were insisted on a peaceable solution could not be expected.

Count Hatzfeldt wrote to Prince Hohenlohe on the subject, and he tells me that he received a telegraphic reply that Prince Hohenlohe had not spoken of any proposal made by me. This was before I received a copy of the despatch which I have cited above, in which it is clearly stated that Prince Hohenlohe asked what Lord Odo Russell "thought of Mr. Goschen's new proposal," and that he further spoke of my "being inclined towards the Turkish view of the Berlin Award."

On receipt of this despatch I again saw Count Hatzfeldt, and told him what Prince Hohenlohe had said. He expressed the greatest astonishment, and said it was impossible; I must remember what Prince Hohenlohe had telegraphed to him when he had asked about the subject. I pressed his Excellency again as to what he had written, and reminded him that he had told me that he had never written about a proposal or suggestion having been made by me, but had stated an impression which existed amongst the majority of his colleagues, myself included, that, if the cession of Janina were insisted on, no peaceable solution was possible. He replied very emphatically, "Not the majority, but all, all, that is what I wrote." I begged him to refresh his memory by reading his despatch again, but he said he remembered it perfectly well, and Prince Hohenlohe's telegram must convince me as to what he had written. Count Hatzfeldt equally denied having said a word about my being inclined to the Turkish view of the Berlin Award. He seemed quite at a loss to understand how such a thing could have been said.

I do not know how far it will be possible for Lord Odo Russell to ask Prince Hohenlohe for an explanation of the apparently serious discrepancy. I am naturally unwilling to see the German Foreign Minister fasten a proposal upon me personally for which as his own Representative here assures me, there was no warrant whatever in the despatches he had received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 680.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 378, in which your Lordship comments on the account communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 212, as to the feelings and arguments with which, as

your Lordship states, the Porte allows itself to be deluded into resisting the will of Europe.

I would not recur to the question of these feelings and arguments if I did not gather from your Lordship's despatch that I must have failed to convince your Lordship on a point of some importance, with regard to which the evidence here on the spot appears to be conclusive.

Your Lordship may be perfectly right in the belief that "the Ministers of the Sultan can hardly still continue to believe that the argument with which they have been so long and so ill-advisedly protracting the Greek controversy on the question of the Greek frontier are likely to appeal with any force to the Powers against the Award of the Conference of Berlin." But as regards the arguments that the Protocols of Berlin expressed only a wish, and not a decision, that the Article in the Treaty stipulated for mediation, not for arbitration, and that there was no understanding that such mediation was to be on the basis of the line of the Protocol, and that the mediation was "to facilitate negotiations" only, it is certain that the Sultan and the Ministers and ex-Ministers, and indeed every Turk who has even heard the matter discussed, entertain a passionate conviction.

It may be perfectly true that to impartial observers it may seem "that the argument was exhausted in the further debates with the Greek Commission," but the Turks have never been shaken in their conviction, and this conviction, erroneous as your Lordship's arguments show it to be, must necessarily be taken into account if a correct view of their attitude and action is to be formed. As I stated in my despatch to which your Lordship replies, it is a point which cannot be overlooked when an estimate is taken of the chances of the Turks yielding to moral pressure alone.

I beg most respectfully to assure your Lordship that it is a mistake to think that the Porte, in reviving this argument, is merely having recourse to the policy of procrastination which it habitually pursues. No doubt the Ottoman Government is desirous to procrastinate, mainly, as your Lordship justly remarks, in the belief that, if it delays sufficiently long, the concert of the Powers will break up. But it has an absolute and sincere confidence in the force of the above arguments all the same.

As I wished to convey to your Lordship in my previous despatch, it is not only the Porte which officially brings forward these arguments. They are in the mouth of every Turk, and they stimulate that feeling against Europe, and especially against England, as having taken the initiative, which I have so often had occasion to describe.

I have considered it my imperative duty to give your Lordship as faithful a representation of the state of feeling here as possible, but your Lordship is aware that whether the assumption in your Lordship's despatch is correct, that the Porte is simply arguing for the sake of delay, or whether it is acting under the belief that Europe has been very hard upon the Turks, the language I have held to the Ministers and to the Sultan would meet either case. I have spoken to them of the grave risk that, if they persist in delay, insurrection in their misgoverned provinces, or the aggravation of the persecution of Christians in parts of Macedonia, might bring about a final crisis.

I have spoken entirely in the sense of your Lordship's despatch that an opinion gains strength among the Cabinets every day that it is not only an inconvenience, but a real danger to Europe, that Turkey should oppose continued resistance to decisions arrived at by all the Powers in the interest of peace.

But I have repeatedly explained to your Lordship that, while this weighty and steady pressure is brought to bear upon the Porte, which undoubtedly inspires fear, there is a strong and real apprehension on the other side. Turkey is not simply trying craftily to reduce demands made upon her by attempting discussion amongst the Powers. She is genuinely and really afraid of the results of those concessions on her future strength. She is afraid of the alienation of the Albanians, and of the grave diminution of her resources in Europe to resist either the Bulgarians or the Greeks. As I have reported to your Lordship before, they consider their choice to lie between suicide or death by violence. They consider surrender almost as dangerous as coercion.

It should be distinctly grasped that the threats of disasters which will follow from resistance may fail in their efficacy, not only on account of the belief that disunion among the Powers will prevent them, but also because the Porte has vividly before it the fears of other disasters if it yields. Every effort must clearly be made to allay these fears.

Your Lordship points out some measures which might be useful in this direction. Your Lordship's speaks of the self-denying Protocol which would preclude any of the Powers from taking advantage of the state of Turkey for their own individual

objects and interests, and of a proposed declaration of which the object would be to prevent further concessions being demanded of the Ottoman Empire on behalf of the minor States.

I had not hitherto been authorized to mention the views of Her Majesty's Government on these two points to the Porte. As I gathered from the despatch to which I am replying that your Lordship considered they supplied arguments to convince the Turks of the advantages of their position, I inquired by telegraph whether I might use them. Your Lordship has replied in the affirmative, if my colleagues agreed. I doubt whether, in the absence of precise instructions, I shall be able to obtain their consent, and in any general discussion amongst us the question would probably arise in what form the communication should be made. I have sounded some of my colleagues already, but they were without instructions. We shall probably have a meeting of the Ambassadors to-morrow, when I shall have the opportunity of ascertaining whether the agreement on which your Lordship makes the communication to the Porte dependent can be obtained.

In your Lordship's despatch No. 333 of the 2nd August, your Lordship forwards me a copy of a letter from Sir Lintorn Simmons, furnishing me with arguments in support of the Award of the Berlin Conference, in compliance with a wish I had expressed in my despatch of the 29th June. I have read the letter containing the arguments, and I concur with your Lordship that the safest course will be to rely on the fact that the decision of the Powers was unanimously given in favour of the new frontier-line. This is, indeed, the course which I have adopted throughout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 681.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 287. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 24, 1880.

MUNIR BEY, the Grand Master of Ceremonies and Chief Dragoman at the Palace, came to see me a few days ago by special order of the Sultan. He brought me a message from His Majesty with regard to the present attitude of the British Government. His Majesty had heard that "England had addressed a communication to the Powers with a view of bringing strong pressure to bear on Turkey in order to induce her ('afin de la décider') to yield on the Greek frontier question." Munir Bey was charged to ask if this were true, and in case it were true to express the pain which His Majesty felt that his old ally should take such a strong initiative against his country. I replied that I did not know of any precise communication to the effect he had stated, but doubtless Her Majesty's Government, in concert with the other Powers, were resolved to press on the Porte the acceptance of the Berlin Award.

I explained what I have so often explained to Abédine Pasha before, and on more than one occasion to the Sultan in person, that the English initiative was not conceived in a hostile spirit to Turkey, but in the belief that acquiescence in the will of Europe could alone save his Empire. In fact, I replied almost exactly in the language of your Lordship's despatch No. 355.

Munir Bey carefully explained to me that his communication was of a purely private character, and seemed a little alarmed when I proceeded to take down his words in writing for the sake of accuracy.

I did not introduce the subject of the Sultan's responsibility again with Munir Bey, because I am anxious that the strong expressions in your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, should reach His Majesty in a more authoritative form, and not be diluted in passing through a Palace channel. Nor did I think the occasion particularly opportune in other respects. But I explained to Munir Bey that it was impossible to remove such impressions as were in the Sultan's mind without personal communication, and that I was at His Majesty's service for the purpose of removing any *arrière-pensée* which might be in his mind as to the intentions of England as soon as he could conveniently see me. I knew that during the Ramazan His Majesty did not like interviews, but I hoped to be received as soon as the Ramazan was past.

Your Lordship will, I trust, not fail to bear in mind that the difficulties which His Majesty now makes about seeing Ambassadors, and his new idea about Ministerial responsibility prevent to a great extent the exercise of that personal influence over his mind

which it is essential to exert. The Ministers being so powerless it is all the more to be regretted that the Sovereign is so inaccessible.

I read a careful translation of the whole of your Lordship's despatch No. 264 to Abédine Pasha, who was deeply impressed by it, but frightened at the repetition of the view of the British Government about the responsibility of the Sultan. I told him the Sultan ought to see it. I would give his Excellency a copy for the purpose. Abédine Pasha begged me to wait. He would speak of the despatch to His Majesty, and elicit a request that a copy should be supplied. I gave his Excellency plainly to understand that the Sultan must, one way or other, know its contents. Yesterday Sir A. Sandison, by my instructions, asked Abédine Pasha what he had done in the matter. He replied that he had not communicated the despatch. He had confined himself to developing to His Majesty as the expression of his own opinion, the advantages to be derived by Turkey from the friendly disposition of the British nation. As the despatch, he added, was more or less a recapitulation of what was stated to the Sultan on the occasion of my first audience, and as the word "responsibility" appeared in it again, he had preferred not to tell His Majesty yet of the purport or existence of the document.

Sir A. Sandison observed to him that in view of the instructions I had received to communicate the despatch to the Sultan's Ministers if not to the Sultan himself, it would, perhaps be better for his Excellency to bring about the conversation again, and to let His Majesty know how the matter stood.

It is clear that I shall have to speak to His Majesty on the subject myself, if I continue to think that it is essential that His Majesty should know the exact purport of your Lordship's remarks.

Like most of my colleagues, I abstained from seeing Abédine Pasha myself yesterday, as I did not wish to be asked any questions about the Montenegrin frontier till I was acquainted with your Lordship's final views on his Excellency's last note and on the naval demonstration. Sir A. Sandison accordingly saw Abédine Pasha on several matters to which the attention of his Excellency had to be drawn. In the course of the conversation Abédine Pasha reverted to the very point on which Munir Bey had seen me on Saturday. Sir A. Sandison was speaking of the state of refugees in Asia Minor and of the aspersions which the Turkish press were casting on our actions in Asia Minor which was entirely for the benefit of the suffering population. His Excellency first said that the difficulty was exclusively one of money. Some allowance would, he hoped, be made for the pecuniary difficulties of the Government, which found itself under the painful necessity of applying all its available means to the maintenance of a large army in presence of the dangers which seemed to threaten from many quarters the peace and security of the Empire; and as to the expressions of the Turkish press on the intentions of England in Asia Minor, his Excellency replied with some animation, and in a very bitter tone, that it was no matter of surprise to hear the Turks now speak of England in this manner, since it was reported from all directions that she alone was taking the initiative for introducing changes in some of the most important parts of the country, which, under the name of autonomy, or a milder term, seem to aim at nothing short of the complete dislocation of the Empire.

I report this conversation to your Lordship, as it is comparatively new language on the part of Abédine Pasha, who till now has spoken in a different strain with regard to reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN

No. 682.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 288.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 24, 1880.*

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship with regard to the Montegrin question on the 20th instant, I have received from your Lordship several telegrams as to the last proposal of the Porte, and as to the views of Her Majesty's Government upon it.

Your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 421 and 422 of the 22nd instant call attention to the serious difference between the verbal proposal of Abédine Pasha, under which it appeared that only Dinosi was excepted from the acceptance of what has generally been called the Dulcigno arrangement, and his written proposal, which, though not clearly expressed, leaves the frontier east of the Lake of Scutari to be settled according to the terms of the Berlin Treaty. I have not yet felt myself authorized to ask for explanations, as the telegrams were provisionally to be considered as drafts. Meanwhile I have learnt confidentially that there was a discussion at the Council of Ministers whether an actual line should be suggested east of Scutari, or whether the terms of the Berlin Treaty should be referred to, and that eventually the latter course was decided on by a majority.

Mr. Kirby Green's conversation with Riza Pasha seems to indicate that the Porte deliberately intend to recover the Kuči Krajna district, otherwise it would be open to question whether it really had intended to go to this extreme, but it is significant that a debate should have taken place.

I gather that this effect of the Turkish proposal makes it impossible to entertain it seriously, and that Her Majesty's Government, in concert with the other Powers, have accordingly decided that Dulcigno must be surrendered without further negotiation, leaving the remainder of the frontier-line for further consideration; in fact, that Dulcigno is to be surrendered in proof of the *bonâ fides* of the Porte.

From your Lordship's telegram No. 428 of the 23rd instant I see that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has expressed his surprise and regret at the news of the intended naval demonstration notwithstanding the consent of the Porte to the cession of Dulcigno. The Porte appears to have assumed quite prematurely that it would not take place. I have not felt authorized to speak on the subject in either direction, as I had received no reply to that part of my telegram No. 178 of the 17th instant in which I stated that I had no telegram yet as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the naval demonstration; but I have certainly been under the impression myself, as have been some, but not all, of my colleagues, that the idea of a demonstration stood precisely in the same position as before. The Turkish press, on the other hand, have throughout written as if the action of the Ottoman Government had been taken, and successfully taken, with the view of avoiding the appearance on Turkish coasts of an united squadron, and their disappointment will be great accordingly.

I have ventured to call your Lordship's attention, by my telegram No. 183 of the 21st instant, to that part of the instruction given to the Admiral Commanding-in-chief which relates to Albanian institutions. When Mr. Kirby Green first suggested the Dulcigno arrangement, it was part of his plan that an offer should be made to the Albanians that, if they acquiesced, their aspirations for more self-government should be supported by the Powers. The application of the advantages to be received under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin was also to be promised. But during the months which have elapsed since the project was first worked out by Mr. Green, the Eastern Roumelian Commission have practically endeavoured to secure all for the Albanians which Mr. Kirby Green proposed to give, irrespective of their acquiescence. I myself have not concealed my view that the action of the Commission was premature. It appeared to me inexpedient to decide the question of local reforms for Albania till the present crisis was passed; but under the lead of the French Commissioner, the Commission insisted on finishing their work.

It will now be for the Powers to decide how far the instructions to their naval Commanders can embrace the grant of privileges to which the European Commission is already committed, or how far it is possible to hold out hopes which may not tally with what the Commission has recommended.

I have asked Lord E. Fitzmaurice to send a copy of what was finally decided at once to Mr. Kirby Green, so that he may have time thoroughly to study what has been actually done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 683.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 17, 1880.*

AT to-day's sitting the new law, as amended and subsequently recommended by the Committee, was read through a second time by the Commission.

The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner moved to omit the word "exclusive" in Article 82 of the revised "Projet," which begins as follows:—"Seront de la compétence exclusive du Conseil Général les lois," &c.

He argued that it was not clear to whom the word "exclusive" applied. Was the

intention to exclude the Vali, or any other merely "provincial" authority, or to exclude all Imperial legislation? If the latter, he could not accept the word. He was, however, he added, willing to retain the word if the more limited meaning was declared on the *compte-rendu* to be that intended by the Commission.

M. de Braunschweig said it was a principle of all legislation that the Sovereign Power of a country could not, in theory at least, divest itself irrevocably of legislative power in favour of local and subordinate Assemblies, and that if the word "exclusive" was maintained, it would, to say the least, be necessary to insert a clause stating, in analogy with the Federal legislation of the German Empire, that in the case of a conflict of laws, the Imperial should prevail over the provincial law. M. Aubaret said that he thought the word "exclusive" was of no great importance one way or the other. It undoubtedly limited the power of the Vali. It also clearly gave precedence in all the enumerated subjects of legislation to the Council-General, a precedence with which the Porte would not be likely to wish to interfere. He was not, however, prepared to say that it excluded Imperial legislation altogether on those subjects, or ought to exclude it, but, in his opinion, the Article would contain the meaning given above, even if the word was omitted.

I stated that I had taken the word from the Eastern Roumelian Statute, and that perhaps M. de Braunschweig would tell us what it meant there. I was, however, I added, aware that the Constitutional point mentioned by him was a very delicate and important one, and had frequently given rise, even recently, to long discussions in connection with English Colonial legislation. All the circumstances considered, it seemed to me better to omit the word than to express an interpretation of it in the *compte-rendu*. No interpretation, considering the discussion, would probably be unanimous, nor in any case could it be authoritative. At the same time, I should regret the omission, though in practice the result would probably be as M. Aubaret had stated.

The Russian Commissioner concurred in this view, and the word was omitted.

I may add that nothing is expressly said on the point involved in the discussion by the Cretan Charter.

Since the arrival of Baron Calice, I have observed an alteration in the attitude of my Austro-Hungarian colleague, from whom I had hitherto received the most cordial support. On several recent occasions he has shown a tendency to reopen questions which had been satisfactorily settled, and I felt myself obliged at to-day's meeting, shortly after the discussion mentioned above, to state that, should this course be persevered in, I should consider myself entitled to reopen other questions, upon which, for the sake of harmony, I had yielded to my colleagues. This remark had the desired effect, and the second reading of the amended law proceeded without any further discussion of importance.

I attribute the attitude of Baron de Kosjek to the circumstances which induced me, in my despatch No. 10, to anticipate that, owing to the existence at Vienna of an overmastering fear of a catastrophe in the Balkan Peninsula, the Austro-Hungarian Delegate would be instructed to limit the work of the Commission, except in matters absolutely necessary to the preservation of peace and security, so as thereby to reduce tension, and possibly induce the Ottoman Government to accept the proposals made.

Owing to the present troubled condition of affairs here, the Vienna Cabinet has had all its fears renewed and intensified, and in keeping with a course of policy which may be said to be traditional, is more than ever inclined to try and avoid a clearly defined situation, and to adopt a policy of palliations and compromises, carried to a point more than likely to defeat its own object, and be entirely misunderstood by the Porte. The Turkish newspapers are already proclaiming Baron de Calice to be the saviour of the Turkish Empire. I do not, however, consider that any serious harm has been done by this change of attitude on the part of the Austrian Embassy. Most of the important points had been settled before the arrival of Baron de Calice, and many while Baron de Kosjek was himself Chargé d'Affaires.

I may add add that, owing to several small indications, I had had reason to suspect for some time that the arrival of Baron de Calice would herald a more timorous policy on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and I consequently sacrificed a great deal to getting as many points of principle as possible settled before his arrival, which was fortunately considerably delayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 684.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 17, 1880.

BARON DE KOSJEK has informed his colleagues that he wishes to insert on the *comptes-rendus* a separate declaration reserving the rights acquired under the Treaty of Berlin by Austria-Hungary over the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. This district is now civilly administered by Turkey, as part of the Vilayet of Kossovo, but is subject to military occupation, under certain conditions, by the Austro-Hungarian Government. The Commissioners see no reason why they should object to this proposal of their Austro-Hungarian colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 685.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 17, 1880.

AT the private meeting of the Commissioners of the Powers held yesterday, the procedure of the Commission in regard to the "avis" which will accompany the new law and the terms of the "avis" itself were discussed. The Commissioners present came to the conclusion that there was no Report, expressing their own opinions in language adequate to the occasion, which the Turkish Commissioners would sign, and that there was a clear line beyond which concession ought not to go.

They therefore determined to propose the signature of a brief declaration by all the Commissioners, declaring the law attached to it to be a law drawn up by the Porte in conformity with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and subsequently amended by the Commission.

This declaration being a mere statement of fact, the Ottoman Commissioners will probably not refuse to sign.

The Commissioners of the Powers at the same time resolved to declare their signatures to have been given subject to the opinions expressed in an identical declaration or "avis," which will be put in at the last sitting and will appear on the *compte-rendu*. The general terms of this "avis" were then considered. The draft, of which I forwarded a copy in my despatch No. , was taken as a starting-point. The other Commissioners approved of its general outline, but decided that it was advisable to insert in it an outline of the new law. To this I at once consented, and M. Aubaret handed in the sketch of an abstract.

This was read and approved.

The question of Albania was then brought forward.

The Commissioners unanimously resolved that the Annexe relating to the privileges of the mountain tribes of the Ghegalik, prepared by the Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret, and herein inclosed, should be considered at another private meeting to be held on Thursday next. It was also resolved that by the Ghegalik was meant the whole country north of the Skumbi, and that the privileges of any mountain districts in Central or Lower Albania which could be proved to exist should be maintained also. The Commissioners refused, however, to adopt the recommendation of the paragraph in my draft relating to the union of all the Albanian districts into four sandjaks, with a view to their ultimate union in a single vilayet.

The Austro-Hungarian Commissioner, who, on this occasion received the marked support of the German Commissioner, stated that he must decline to be a party to any suggestion involving recommendations as to the formation or delimitation of particular vilayets. As the French Commissioner, on the whole, took the same course, and as I received no support from the Italian Commissioner, I did not, for the moment, press the subject any further.

The Commissioners, however, adopted the paragraphs calling the attention of the Porte to the necessity of forming the vilayets on some definite basis, and pointing out the immense responsibility attaching to the selection of the Valis under the new law.

The question of the Greek Islands was then discussed.

The Commissioners decided that it would in practice be impossible to distinguish between the Islands in Asia and those in Europe, and that we had the choice of either

applying the scheme to all or to none. The former alternative was unanimously adopted.

As regarded Constantinople, it was decided to apply the new law to the sandjaks lying outside the city and "banlieue," and the 1st Chapter alone, which relates to the personal rights of citizens, to the city and "banlieue." It was considered that any attempt to deal generally with the city and "banlieue" would prove abortive, and in all probability bring discredit on the work of the Commission.

I am very decidedly of this opinion myself. Municipal institutions are working up to a certain point in the city and "banlieue," and I see great risks in touching them, especially in the absence of all adequate information.

The Commissioners finally considered the question as to what course the Commission should adopt at the termination of its labours. I said I thought that the Commission could not dissolve itself, but that the individual Commissioners could only report to their respective Governments that it had terminated its present task, and ask for further instructions.

This view, after a brief discussion, was generally agreed to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 686.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 89.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the plan for Upper Albania proposed by the Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret. As it is evidently open to the objection urged by the Baron de Kosjek himself to my proposal in regard to Albania, viz., that it is an interference by the Commission with the existing limits of the vilayets, I shall to-morrow reopen the latter question at the private meeting of the Commissioners.

I have suggested to Mr. Goschen that in the last resort there would be no objection to my handing in a separate declaration on the subject of Albania, and asking that it should be entered on the *compte-rendu*. Mr. Goschen has approved of this proposal.

The specific points on which the plan of the Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret interferes with the existing delimitations of the vilayets are the following:—

1. The separation of the Sandjak of Scutari from the Vilayet of Monastir, to which it is at present attached.

2. The separation from the Caza of Diakova, in the Vilayet of Monastir, of the mountain tribes of Vikçi and Merturi, and their union to the Sandjak of Scutari.

3. The separation from the Caza of Dibreizir, in the Vilayet of Monastir, of the mountain district of Luria and its union to the Sandjak of Scutari.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 686.

Mémorandum sur le Sandjak de Scutari (Albanie), présenté à la Commission Européenne par MM. le Baron de Kosjek, Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, et Aubaret, Délégué de France.

LES principales tribus ou bannières (baïraks) dont se compose le Sandjak de Scutari sont:

Au nord de Scutari:—

1. Les Hotti, Klémenti, Gruda, Kastrati, et Skreli, autrement appelées les cinq grandes montagnes. Leur population s'élève à environ 20,000 âmes, dont 18,000 Catholiques et 2,000 Musulmans.

On peut y joindre les Baïraks moins importants de Rioli, Retchi, Lohia, et Koplikou, dont la population totale de 3,000 âmes est moitié Catholique et moitié Musulmane.

Au nord-est de Scutari:—

2. Le district montagneux de Pulati contenant les Baïraks de Scialla et Scioci, ceux de Nikaï et Merturi, de Giovagni, de Kiri, de Planti, de Toplana, et de Duschmani. On compte là environ 13,500 Catholiques et pas de Musulmans.

A l'est de Scutari:

3. La Postipa comprenant Drischti (Drivasto), les Baïraks de Boyschi, Suma, Schlaku, et Temal. On y compte 2,500 Catholiques et 1,800 Musulmans.

A l'est de Scutari:—

4. La Dukajina (Puka) qui est formée par les Baïraks de Kabaschi, Budjoni, Beretti, Puka, Halia, Malisi, et Berischia. Ce district a une population d'environ 24,250 âmes, dont 18,000 Musulmans.

Au sud-est de Scutari:—

5. La Mirditie (Mirdita) comprenant les Baïraks d'Orosch, de Dibri, de Fanti, de Kuschneni et de Spatchi. Il y a là 20,000 Catholiques et pas de Musulmans.

Au sud de Scutari:—

6. Les tribus montagnardes d'Alessio comprenant les Baïraks de Lesh, de Bulgari, de Veglia, et de Krisesci, qui, sur une population de 5,500 âmes, comptent 5,200 Catholiques et 300 Musulmans seulement.

Au sud de Scutari:—

7. Enfin, le district de Mathia, formé par les Baïraks de Ketella, de Selita, et de Luria, et dont la population est de 2,500 Catholiques avec un millier de Musulmans.

Plaines:—

Tel est le pays montagneux de la province de Scutari. Il occupe à peu près tout le territoire du sandjak, auquel il ne reste, en fait de plaines, depuis l'occupation de Podgoritza par le Monténégro, que la fertile Zadrima séparée de Scutari par le Drin et les vastes landes qui entourent immédiatement cette ville.

Population.—Caractère national:—

On a vu que la population de la montagne, qui s'élève au chiffre total de 92,000 âmes environ, se divise en 80,000 Catholiques et 12,000 Musulmans. Tous vivent, cependant, dans le plus parfait accord et ne demandent nullement à être séparés. Ils sont Albanais avant tout et, s'il est vrai de dire que les Catholiques sont extrêmement attachés à leur religion, il n'est tout autant d'affirmer que chez eux, comme chez leurs frères Musulmans, le sentiment de la nationalité, l'attachement au sol de la patrie et à ses anciennes coutumes, sont aisément poussés jusqu'à l'exaltation. L'esprit de fierté et d'indépendance, commun à tous les Albanais, est soutenu chez eux par des qualités guerrières très-prononcées. C'est grâce à leur indomptable énergie que malgré les fréquentes tentatives de la Sublime Porte, ces montagnards sont parvenus à conserver, à peu près intacts, les privilèges dont ils jouissent *ab antiquo*.

Privilèges:—

Ces privilèges sont à peu de choses près semblables dans les différentes bannières. Ils consistent principalement:

En l'exemption des impôts fonciers et de la Dîme pour tous les terrains de montagne. En l'application du droit coutumier, tant au civil qu'au criminel. En l'administration locale d'après les us et coutumes. En ce que les montagnards, non-soumis à la conscription, sont simplement tenus de fournir, en cas de guerre, des contingents irréguliers.

Mirdites:—

Les Mirdites joignent à ces franchises le droit spécial d'être gouvernés par un des leurs, Chef héréditaire dans sa famille. Ce Chef est reconnu par la Sublime Porte.

Ces privilèges ont eu des défenseurs au Congrès de Berlin, comme en fait foi le Protocole 13. Il est vrai qu'il n'y a été question que des Mirdites. Mais, sauf l'immunité accordée à leur Chef, les Mirdites sont dans la même situation que leurs compatriotes des montagnes.

L'expérience a souvent prouvé qu'il n'était ni bon ni prudent de toucher à ces privilèges. En ce moment, moins que jamais, on ne devrait tenter de les abolir. Le plus sûr moyen d'arriver à une pacification graduelle du pays est, au contraire, de les respecter, tout en en tirant le meilleur parti possible. C'est ce que l'on s'est attaché à faire en présentant le Projet suivant que l'on a mis, autant qu'on a pu, en accord avec les réformes récemment élaborées pour les autres vilayets, immédiatement placés sous l'autorité de la Sublime Porte.

Projet.

Le Projet dont il va être question est exclusivement applicable aux pays de montagne, c'est-à-dire, aux différentes bannières (baïraks) dont la nomenclature a été donnée au commencement de ce travail. Il va sans dire que les plaines seront, comme par le passé, assujetties à la loi commune, et que leurs villages continueront d'être groupés en nahiés et ceux-ci en un ou plusieurs cazas selon leur importance.

Sandjak de Scutari :—

Article 1er. Le Sandjak de Scutari aura pour Gouverneur un Pacha militaire, qui remplira, à la fois, les fonctions du Gouverneur Civil et Commandant-en-chef des forces militaires du sandjak.

Sous-Gouverneur de la Montagne (Bach-Captan) :—

Art. 2. Un Sous-Gouverneur des Montagnes (" Bach-Captan ") sera également nommé par Iradé Impérial, et placé immédiatement sous les ordres du Gouverneur de Scutari. Le Bach-Captan devra appartenir à l'une des principales familles Catholiques des montagnes. Avant de procéder à sa nomination, on réunira les Baïraktars des montagnes afin d'entendre leurs vœux. Les Baïraktars présenteront trois noms au choix de la Sublime Porte qui agréera l'un des candidats.

Art. 3. Le Bach-Captan aura rang de Pacha; il lui sera alloué des appointements convenables; il sera nommé pour cinq ans.

Art. 4. Les devoirs principaux du Bach-Captan sont: d'être le délégué du Gouverneur du sandjak auprès des Baïraks de la montagne, de leur transmettre ses ordres, de surveiller la tranquillité publique dont il est responsable, d'assurer le fonctionnement de l'Administration Locale, conformément aux us et coutumes, de faire exécuter par le moyen de ses intermédiaires les sentences, tant au civil qu'au criminel, de prescrire, en temps de guerre, la levée des contingents.

Conseil d'Administration :—

Art. 5. Un Conseil d'Administration sera placé auprès du Bach-Captan qui en aura la présidence. Ce Conseil, destiné à modérer et à éclairer le Bach-Captan, sera composé de douze membres, dont quatre Mussulmans. Tous ces membres seront élus comme il sera indiqué plus loin.

Art. 6. Les membres du Conseil d'Administration seront rétribués, ou tout au moins indemnisés de leur déplacement. Ils sont élus pour deux ans seulement, mais peuvent être réélus indéfiniment. Chaque année ils sont renouvelables par moitié.

Division en 4 Districts :—

Art. 7. Les montagnes sont divisées en quatre districts ou cercles principaux, qui sont :—

1. Les cinq grandes montagnes au nord de Scutari, comprenant en outre les Baïraks de Rioli, Retchi, Lohia, et Koplikou. Le chef-lieu de ce district est à Pusi.
2. Le district de Pulati, chef-lieu Scialla.
3. Le district de Posrippa et Dukajini, chef-lieu Puka.
4. Le district de Mirditie, comprenant en outre les Bannières d'Allessio et de Mathia, chef-lieu Orosch. Il est bien entendu que dans ce district les privilèges spéciaux aux Mirdites seront respectés, c'est-à-dire que le Chef de ces Montagnes sera pris dans la famille qui occupe héréditairement cette situation.

Buluk-Bachis :—

Art. 8. Un Captan, ou Buluk-Bachi, est placé à la tête de chaque district. Ces Buluk-Bachis relèvent immédiatement du Bach-Captan. Ils sont nommés par le

Gouverneur du sandjak qui les choisit sur une liste renfermant neuf noms, et dressée par le Conseil d'Administration Central. Conformément à ce qui a été dit plus haut, le Captan du district Mirdite ne sera pas soumis à l'élection. Les Buluk-Bachis reçoivent de la Sublime Porte un traitement convenable. Ils sont responsables de la sécurité publique dans leur district. Ils surveillent l'Administration Locale et transmettent les ordres et instructions du Bach-Captan.

Conseil des Anciens :—

Art. 9. Les Conseils des Anciens sont la base de l'Administration Locale dans la montagne. Ils continueront de jouir des mêmes privilèges, et l'administration des villages leur appartiendra comme par le passé. Ils sont chargés de la police locale et connaissent des causes minimes selon le droit coutumier.

Assemblée des Tribus :—

Art. 10. Les Conseils des Anciens se réunissent selon les besoins locaux en Assemblée dite de Tribu ou de Baïrak. Cette Assemblée élit chaque année son Baraïktar qui représente la Tribu tout entière auprès du Buluk-Bachi. Cette Assemblée connaît, selon le droit coutumier, des causes qui dépassent la compétence des Conseils des Anciens.

Assemblée des Montagnes :—

Art. 11. Les Assemblées des Tribus élisent, chacune, deux Délégués qui sont membres de la Grande Assemblée des montagnes. Cette dernière se réunit une fois par an, sous la présidence du Bach-Captan, pour discuter les affaires communes à toutes les montagnes. Avant de se séparer, elle choisit parmi ses membres douze personnes qui composent, comme il a été dit à l'Article 5, le Conseil d'Administration du Bach-Captan.

Ce Conseil une fois constitué, l'Assemblée n'aura plus à élire chaque année que les membres renouvelables.

Assemblée de District :—

Art. 12. Les Baïraktars de chaque Tribu se réunissent également une fois par an ou plus souvent, si cela est nécessaire, pour discuter entre eux les affaires locales de chaque district. Cette Assemblée de district est présidée de droit par le Buluk-Bachi; elle résout les questions qui n'ont pu l'être par les Assemblées de Tribus; elle lève les gens de police pour toute l'étendue du district; elle connaît des causes qu'auraient réservées les Assemblées de Tribus.

Taxes et Amendes :—

Art. 13. Le Code des montagnes appliquant, dans la grande majorité des cas, la peine de l'amende, le produit de ces amendes sera centralisé à chaque district, pour être remis au Conseil d'Administration du Bach-Captan, lequel en aura la garde. Ces amendes seront, selon l'usage, divisées en deux parts: l'une pour le Gouvernement et l'autre pour la Caisse des montagnes. Celle-ci, confiée à la garde du Conseil d'Administration, servira à l'entretien des écoles, églises, mosquées, &c.

Les taxes volontairement consenties par les différentes tribus, et dont la quotité sera décidée par l'Assemblée Générale, seront également réunies à la résidence du Bach-Captan, pour être versées à la Caisse commune. Avec elles, il sera subvenu aux frais généraux de l'Administration, et tout particulièrement, à l'entretien des agents de la police. Il est désormais interdit aux Buluk-Bachis de s'approprier une partie quelconque des amendes qu'ils perçoivent.

Tel est, en substance, le projet soumis à la considération de la Sublime Porte. Elle ne peut qu'y gagner en l'acceptant, car, mieux que personne, elle sait combien son autorité est précaire parmi les montagnards Albanais. Le présent Projet donne au Gouvernement Impérial de sérieuses garanties, puisque la nomination des Chefs de la montagne demeure entre ses mains. Il n'y a d'ailleurs pas, pour le moment, d'autre moyen pour lui de s'attacher des populations qui ne lui resteront fidèles qu'à la condition de jouir de leur séculaire demi-indépendance.

Quant aux autres parties montagneuses des Vilayets de Kossovo, de Monastir et de Janina, rien ne peut empêcher de leur appliquer la loi commune des vilayets. Ces populations sont, depuis longtemps, soumises aux divers règlements de la Sublime Porte et il ne faut, d'ailleurs, pas perdre de vue que notre intention n'a point été de créer de nouveaux privilèges, mais uniquement de respecter ceux que

le temps a déjà consacrés, parce qu'il nous paraît démontré qu'en dehors du respect de ces antiques coutumes, il n'y a à attendre qu'anarchie et confusion.

(Signé) Baron KOSJEK.
G. AUBARET.

No. 687.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 90.) *Buyukdéré, August 19, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 17 of the 6th June, I summarized the defects of the new law presented to the Commission under Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty, and, after showing in what respects it materially differed from the Cretan Statute, I explained the principal alterations which appeared to me necessary.

I now propose briefly to state in what respects and how far these alterations have been carried out by the Commission.

The tenure of the Governor-General was, I pointed out, for five years, and therefore in harmony with the Cretan Statute; not so the financial and legislative powers of the Assembly or Council-General constituted under the new law in every vilayet.

In what points the Articles relating to finance were objectionable has been pointed out by me very fully in my despatch No. 47 of the 9th ultimo. By the amendments adopted—which in reality form a new Chapter of the law—these objections have been removed. A genuine control of the Budget by the Council-General, with a proper system of account and audit, has been instituted, while effectual safeguards have been provided against the seizure of the provincial revenues by the Central Government in any illegal or arbitrary manner, and against any interference with their regular payment into or out of the provincial Treasury. What is meant by the term "costs of the Local Administration," which are to be the first charge on the provincial Budget, has been carefully defined, and the share of the surplus which is to belong to the province, after deducting these costs, has been raised from 10 to 15 per cent. On the other hand, certain revenues, which seemed to be of an essentially Imperial character, have been assigned to the Central Government, in addition to those originally claimed by the Ottoman Commissioners. I have, in my despatch No. 20 of the 9th June, stated my reasons for thinking that the sum which, under these arrangements, will be at the disposition of the Province of Adrianople, will be at least 50 per cent. on a revenue of £ T. 600,000.

The powers of the Council General in certain legislative matters have been made absolute and complete, instead of being merely consultative. The subjects which are declared to belong to the "compétence" of the Council-General will be found enumerated in Article 82. They are as follows:—

"Seront de la compétence du Conseil Général du vilayet:—

"1. Les lois destinées à régler le fonctionnement de l'organisme administratif, judiciaire, et financier, créé par la présente loi.

"2. Les lois sur l'assiette, la répartition, la modification, et la transformation de taxes et des impôts sans, toutefois, en diminuer le montant principal, et à l'exception des lois relatives aux revenus, taxes, et monopoles réservés à l'Empire.

"3. Les lois destinées à régler l'inscription foncière, l'évaluation, le recensement, et l'imposition des propriétés, et des biens de rapport.

"4. Les lois du Budget, et celles portant approbation des comptes d'un exercice clos.

"5. Les lois de la comptabilité du vilayet.

"6. Les lois destinées à régler la perception des impôts.

"7. Les lois touchant l'instruction publique.

"8. Les lois sur les octrois, sur les mines, sur le régime des eaux, et sur celui des forêts.

"9. Les lois sur la voirie, et celles sur les tramways, et les chemins de fer d'intérêt purement provincial, ainsi que toutes les lois ayant trait à des travaux publics qui ne s'exécutent pas aux frais de l'Empire.

"10. Les lois concernant l'agriculture, le commerce, l'industrie, et les intérêts économiques généraux du vilayet.

"11. Les lois relatives aux institutions de crédit.

"12. Les lois réglant la gestion des propriétés du vilayet.

"13. Les lois touchant les hôpitaux, le orphelinats, les bureaux de bienfaisance, et l'assistance publique.

"14. Les lois sur les dîmes.

"15. Les lois sur les prisons.

"16. Les lois portant création d'un cadastre des propriétés territoriales situées dans le vilayet, et celles réglant le régime des hypothèques; et le système des expropriations pour cause d'utilité publique.

"17. Les lois sur la gendarmerie et la police, en prenant pour base la présente loi.

"18. Les lois sur la distribution des logements aux troupes de passage.

"19. Les lois sur la chasse.

"Le Conseil Général délibère sur toutes les questions ci-dessus énumérées."

I would call special attention to the laws relating to tithes having been declared to belong to the "compétence" of the Council-General. The Commission has, during its labours, become convinced that the circumstances connected with the payment of tithe vary extensively, not only from province to province, but even from district to district; and that although it might seem very easy, as originally proposed by the new law, to abolish tithe-farming by a stroke of the pen, and decree the substitution of a land tax for the whole of the Empire, it was highly probable that, if any such course were pursued, the only result would be the addition of one more chapter to the already sufficiently long history of unexecuted reforms. It therefore seemed better to the Commission to throw the responsibility of dealing with the subject on the Council-General, more especially as this course was clearly in harmony with the ideas of decentralization and provincial privilege upon which the XXIIIrd Article of the Berlin Treaty is founded.

In addition to the legislative powers thus conferred on the Council-General, the right has also been given to these bodies to modify the new law itself in matters of purely local interest by a two-thirds majority. This provision is borrowed from the Cretan Charter.

Connected with the above subjects are the two most important provisions, contained in Articles LI and LXXXII, by which effectual security is taken, both in legislative and administrative matters, against the interminable delays of the Sublime Porte. Silence at the end of a certain period is in both cases to be construed to mean consent.

One of the questions which caused the greatest difficulty to the Commission was the determination of the relative position of the Vali and his Council. It has eventually been decided to adopt the wording of the Article relating to this subject in the Cretan Charter, which in practice has been found to work well. As an executive agent, the Vali is to be free; on other questions he must consult his Council, and can only overrule its decision by virtue of an Imperial Decree, except in cases of urgency (*vide* Article L), where he can proceed to instant action, but always on his own undivided responsibility. Both the Vali and his Council are forbidden to interfere in judicial matters.

By Article XXXI, as amended, the Vali is given the power of appointing the whole civil service of the province except the Directors, the Mutessarifs, the Heads of the Courts of Law, the superior officers of the Gendarmerie, and the employés of the branches of the Revenue reserved to the Central Government. All functionaries, however, while in the province, are, without exception, under his control, whether holding their appointments directly from him or not.

The cases in which the state of siege may be proclaimed have been made clear by the adoption out of the East Roumelian Statute of the Article relating to the subject; and the entry of Bashi-Bazouks into the province in time of peace, and the establishment of new Circassian Colonies, has been prohibited.

The privileges which from a remote past have been enjoyed by the spiritual Heads of the different religious communities are continued by the new law. By an amendment on Article XLIX, they have been given a place in the Administrative Council of the province, but have been excluded from the Councils of the nahiés. The reason for this change is that, whereas the presence on the Provincial Council of a Bishop or other high ecclesiastic, presumably a man of learning and intelligence, may be of great advantage, the absence from the Parish Council of the village priests, so often the most ignorant and truculent members of their order, will be equally advantageous.

Some important changes of importance have been made in regard to the Councils-General. The nominated members, whose number has been reduced from one-third to one-fourth, are to sit for the whole duration of the Legislature, instead of going out in rotation.

The Mustechar, the Defterdar (Director of Finance), and the Directors of Justice, Public Works, and Public Instruction, are to be *ex officio* members. On the other hand, the Naïb (the chief Mussulman Judge), the President of the Court of Appeal, and the Inspectors of Justice and Finance, are not to be members, as was originally proposed. The large landowners have been added to the categories, out of each of which a certain number of the *ex officio* members are to be chosen by the Vali, and the civil functionaries and Judges struck out. The legal length of the session has been considerably prolonged (Articles 73, 74), the arbitrary power of dissolution possessed by the Vali limited and

restrained (Articles 33, 75), complete freedom of speech accorded, and the qualification of age reduced to 21 years. The Council has also been rendered independent of the Vali in regard to the arrangement of its own business, and it has been made clear that the vote of the members of the Councils of the nahiés, in electing the members of the Council-General, is to be the personal vote of the members, and not the corporate vote of the municipal body as such. The machinery of the elections, which, in the new law, was in a state of hopeless confusion, has been carefully amended.

I had wished to give the Council-General absolute freedom in the election of its President, to abolish the property qualification for membership, to substitute direct for indirect election, and a triennial general election for the partial biennial election proposed by the Project, and to settle the number of the members of the nahié Councils on a fixed ratio of members to population. On these points of detail I was unsuccessful.

The Comité Permanent was unanimously abolished. The reasons which induced the Commission to come to the above decision, and to substitute for the Comité Permanent a Conseil d'Administration, composed as it is to be under Article 49, will be found in a memorandum written by me, attached to the 6th *compte-rendu*; the views of which met with the approval of my colleagues.

The abolition of the corvée (Article 14) is maintained, and the clauses which practically restored it under another name have been struck out.

The different language of the country have been placed on a footing of practical equality by Article 22, which runs as follows:—

"La langue officielle est la langue Turque.

"Parmi les Magistrats et les Procureurs, ceux qui connaissent les langues locales seront préférablement nommés. Quant aux Juges d'Instruction ("Mustantik") ils seront pris absolument parmi ceux qui possèdent ces langues.

"Les requêtes, pétitions, et toutes les pièces qui doivent être remises aux autorités administratives et judiciaires seront rédigées autant que possible dans l'une des principales langues du pays, au choix des intéressés. Les procès-verbaux, sentences, et mazbatas, qui en émaneront, seront rédigés en Turc et dans la langue choisie par les intéressés.

"Devant les Tribunaux, les plaidoiries pourront être faites, au choix des intéressés, dans leur propre langue.

"Les lois destinées à être promulguées dans les vilayets, les Ordonnances, Circulaires, et publications du Vali, ainsi que les autres Arrêtés, Circulaires, et publications officielles intéressant le vilayet, seront rédigées dans la langue officielle Turque, et dans les principales langues du pays."

The Musteshar, or Secretary-General, has been made the Statutory *locum tenens* of the Vali (Article 29), and it has been declared by Article 21, following the analogy of the Cretan Statute, that whenever the majority of the inhabitants are non-Mussulman, the "Chef d'Administration" is to be a non-Mussulman; also, that whenever the "Chef d'Administration" is a Mussulman, his substitute (the Musteshar or Mouavin, as the case may be) shall be a non-Mussulman. These provisions, it is believed, will be of great value to the Christian population. The converse regulations have, of course, been made to apply so as to protect the Mussulman minorities in Christian districts. The introduction of minority representation in the elections is another valuable step in the same direction.

The Chapter relating to the trial of public functionaries was not found, on closer examination, to be so objectionable as it at first sight seemed, being chiefly concerned with giving certain rights to the Local Councils in regard to prosecutions, which, in this country may not be without use. It has, however, been made clear that public functionaries, as such, are to enjoy no special privileges in regard to judicial matters, and are to be tried by the ordinary Courts.

The Commission has decided to retain the system of local administration proposed by the new law. In my despatch No. 17, I explained the reasons which made me believe that considerable economies could be made, and increased efficiency obtained, through the abolition of the Kaimakam, together with his Council and the Tribunal of the caza. I brought forward this subject at the sitting of the 14th ultimo, and the observations I made in support of this view will be found in the Annexe to the 8th *compte-rendu*. Though unsuccessful on this occasion, I, however, succeeded in the sitting of the 4th instant (see *Compte-rendu* No. 12) in carrying the abolition of the Tribunal of the caza. I cannot help thinking that this may prove a first step in the right direction, and may be followed by further reforms of a similar character.

I was also anxious to allow the Mudirs, or Mayors, of the nahiés to be freely elected by their Councils, without interference on the part of the Mutessarif. In this, however, I was also unsuccessful.

I also wished to state more definitely—as requested in the Adrianople Mazbata—

that the Moukhtars were not to be employed as tax-gatherers, though always to be obliged to assist the officers of the revenue in their duties. It was considered by my colleagues that this point was already quite clear, and I therefore did not press the subject. The Council-General has in any case full powers to provide against any evils existing in the system of tax collection.

The Chapter in the East Roumelian Statute relating to the rights of the different religious communities has been added to the new law, with some amendments and additions. I believe no portion of the work of the Commission has been so anxiously watched as this.

The Commission decided not to touch the general question of vakouf tenure, as not coming within its legitimate attributes. I had suggested allowing the Councils-General to deal with it, but there was undoubtedly a considerable difficulty in allowing a Mixed Assembly to touch the question of Mussulman endowments.

A great mass of provisions dealing with such subjects as road making and public works, previously declared to come within the attributes of the Councils-General, were unanimously struck out as being more properly left to the decision of those bodies.

The Commission, though considering civil and criminal procedure, and the preparation of a Code of Substantive Law to be subjects outside their legitimate province, determined to claim the right, in conformity with the analogy of the Cretan Charter, to decide on the constitution of the Courts of Law, and, in connection with this subject, to touch certain points of procedure such as the reception of Christian evidence, which seemed to them of vital importance. The result of their labours will be found in Chapter XIII.

It has been the special object of the Commission, by fixing the salaries of the judicial staff at a tolerably high figure, to put an end to judicial corruption, and by the establishment of Nahié Courts to bring justice to the doors of the people.

The preservation of the peace and the security of life and property being the principal object of the Commission, it was unanimously decided to resist the extraordinary attempt of the Porte to subtract the organization of the gendarmerie from its cognizance by the promulgation of a law for the whole Empire. It accordingly added the 17th Chapter to the new law.

The condition of the prisons, the absence of any genuine system of gaol-delivery, and the power of arbitrary imprisonment are among the greatest scandals of Turkey. It is true that the most liberal principles have long since been proclaimed on these topics. The Commission has attempted by a few short and simple rules of procedure to give some adequate protection to the person against illegal arrest and detention. Not the least important of these is the right conferred on the Mudirs of inspecting the prisons.

In my despatch No. 17 I called special attention to the fact that the words "Règlement" and "Règlement Spécial" were constantly appearing in an ambiguous manner throughout the new law; that it was impossible to say exactly what was meant thereby, but that the above terms were evidently used in many cases in order to keep in the hands of the Sublime Porte and of the Governor-General the prerogative of arbitrarily altering the laws made by the Council-General. The Commission has struck out these words in all those cases where their use appeared dangerous.

I may here observe that the incorrectness of the translation, the slip-shod language in which it was embodied, and the casual arrangement of the Articles, immensely increased the difficulty of the task of the Commission, which had to remedy these defects as well as to deal with the various questions mentioned above.

Such, in the main, are the principal modifications introduced into the new law. Whatever the fate of that law may be—whether it will only be a fresh tale of great expectations and small results or really lead to some practical alteration in the condition of the provinces—remains to be seen. The result will mainly depend on the good-will of the Porte and upon the determination of the Powers whose Representatives the Commissioners have been.

Judging from the past conduct of the Porte, it is not unreasonable to suppose that every attempt will be made by delays and subterfuges to evade the acceptance of the new law, or at least of its vital portions, and even after its acceptance to avoid the performance of all its really important provisions, while an attempt will no doubt be made to deceive the public by a partial application of those Articles which are little more than a reproduction of the old "Loi des Vilayets," *e.g.*, the Chapter about the local authorities.

The only course by which these subterfuges can be prevented will be for the Powers to insist on the proclamation by the Porte of the new law in its present shape, without any change whatever, and to refuse to be led into controversy on points of detail and upon subjects which the Commission has already fully considered. I may observe that the French is the official version.

Even then only the first steps will have been taken; the practical execution of the reforms to be effected will still remain. This will depend chiefly on the Valis, to whom a large initiative is given by the new law, and to whose friendly or unfriendly disposition much will consequently be left.

If Valis such as Reouf Pasha were sent into every province there would be every probability of a substantial and rapid improvement in the existing order of things. There are other names equally suggestive of obstruction and retrogression. I can only hope, in taking leave of my task, that it may be to the former and not to the latter class of officials to whom the last reform may be left. If, however, the Porte is sufficiently ill-advised to reject the counsels of the Powers, and to refuse to set its house in order, it requires no extraordinary foresight to understand that the days of the Turkish Empire in Europe will, in that case, ere long be numbered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 688.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 19, 1880.*

IN Article 68 of the new law (the old Article 82), the vacoufs, the revenues of which are, in future to be devoted to public instruction, have been limited to those dedicated to pious uses which have now ceased to exist.

This limitation, I may explain, is not an amendment by the Commission of the sense of the original text, but only a correct translation of the Turkish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 689.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 19, 1880.*

DURING the discussion of the Albanian question at the private meeting of the Commissioners, on Saturday the 14th instant, M. Hitrovo, the Russian Commissioner, made the following observations. He said he believed that the Albanian movement was two-fold in its character: in some places it was the offspring of religious fanaticism; in others, of a genuine national feeling. The interesting question was, which element would prevail and give a final stamp to the movement, the religious or the political? He had always been of opinion that the Albanian people had a future of its own, and could not be merged in any of the other races of the Balkan Peninsula; and he considered it idle to deny that the present movement was, to a considerable degree, really national, or to argue that it was entirely the work of the wire-pullers at Constantinople.

There had been wire-pulling at Constantinople, of course, but it was not improbable that, as in many other cases, the Sublime Porte would sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. He was aware that his opinions were not those of the Russian Consul at Scutari, nor did he believe them to have, as yet, carried conviction to the minds of his own official superiors. He had, nevertheless, expressed them, and should continue to do so. His own personal view as to the character of the action now to be adopted was identical with that expressed in my draft "Avis," viz., that while it might be dangerous, or, at least, premature to try to make a Constitution for all Albania, nothing should be done which, at any future date, might prove an obstacle in that direction; and that, by joining together the Albanian districts now scattered over several heterogenous vilayets, in independent sandjaks, which might, at a future date, according to circumstances, be united in one vilayet, a valuable step in the right direction would be taken.

During the same conversation, M. Aubaret said that when the Turko-Montenegrin frontier was under consideration at Berlin, M. Waddington had done him the honour to take his opinion. He had told M. Waddington that the line which proved to be that finally adopted was an impossible one, and that the Albanians would never allow it to be carried out. He had said the same of the so-called "Corti compromise," and, from his knowledge of the country, he ventured to doubt whether the Dulcigno arrangement could be carried out.

It was, no doubt, true that the Porte had not been over-anxious to carry out any of these arrangements, but to deny the difficulty of carrying them out was a proof, in his opinion, of the most absolute ignorance of the fundamental part of the whole question, viz., the extreme tenacity of the Albanians in all matters connected with land, which he believed, it was almost impossible fully to realize except by personal residence in the country. He had, he said, before now seen fifty men lying dead in a single field, killed in a quarrel about the possession of a barren rock, not much bigger than the small house in which we were met. The cession to Montenegro of the district of the Lower Warsovitch was quite sufficient, and, in his opinion, the only one possible, as the event had proved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 690.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August 20, 1880.*

THE expediency of adding a certain number of temporary clauses in regard to the first elections under the new law has been considered by the Commission.

The number of the members of the Nahié Councils is to vary from four to twelve, according to the size and population of the nahié. The Council of the caza determines the number, subject to the general legislative control of the Council-General. But when the first election for the Nahié Council takes place, neither the Council-General nor the reformed Council of the caza, which are both the ultimate result of the nahié elections themselves, will be in existence. The Commission had, therefore, to consider whether it would leave the determination of the number of members in each Nahié Council to the Councils of the cazas, as at present constituted, or give a temporary discretion to the Valis. They decided that the latter course would be dangerous, and that the former, on the whole, presented the least objection; the Council of the caza, even as at present constituted, having presumably more of the necessary local knowledge than the Valis, many of whom have only just been appointed to their present posts.

As I have mentioned in my despatch No. 90, I would have preferred myself having some simple rules by which the number of the Nahié Councils would have settled itself by being based on a fixed ratio of members to population. At the same time, I do not anticipate any considerable harm, except this temporary inconvenience at starting, to result from not having so fixed it; because, should any attempt be made to treat a particular nahié unfairly, the inhabitants of that nahié, irrespective of race and religion, will unite in protesting, and will send up members pledged to set the question right.

In the Island of Crete, where, for electoral purposes, the Councils of the Ancients of each village were taken as the first electoral college; the number of the members of each Council does not appear to have been determined by the Charter at starting.

In some districts the nahiés themselves did not, till quite recently, exist, but I am informed that the Government has, in those districts, used the powers it possessed under the old "Loi des Vilayets," to divide the cazas, and to appoint Mudirs, with a view to the early operation of the new law.

The first electoral operation is the preparation in each village, by the Council of Ancients, of an electoral list. These lists are eventually sent to the Mudir, at the centre of the nahié, and become the register of the district. The Council of the Ancients, it must be recollected, is an existing institution—perhaps the only institution in Turkey with a real vitality in it.

In reading the new law as a whole, it must throughout be recollected that the Commission had to take notice, to a certain extent, of existing laws and institutions, and was not dealing, as in Eastern Roumelia, with a practical *tabula rasa*. The Councils of the vilayet, of the sandjak, and of the caza, the Vali, the Mutessarif, and the Kaïmakam, all exist, though in a lame and stunted condition. The object of the Commission has been to renew and vitalize their action. But in some respects it was necessary to rely on the old machinery in order to set the new machinery in motion, unless the attempt was to be made to give a general and arbitrary power to the Vali at starting. This, besides being objectionable in itself, would probably have ended in the use of the old machinery by the Vali, so that the ultimate result would have been the same in both cases.

One or two of the minor provisions relating to the elections will no doubt be inapplicable to the first elections; *e.g.*, that at least one of the officials sent down

conduct the elections must be an elected Councillor. But these subordinate points will, in practice, work themselves out, and the Commission on the whole decided not to encumber the new law with a great mass of temporary provisions. It will, no doubt, be only gradually that the working of the new electoral machinery will be understood, operating, as it will, in a country in which representative institutions are a novelty; and it was mainly because the Commission thought it probable that the first elections might, in consequence, not be very satisfactorily conducted, that they decided in favour of a rapid partial renewal of the Assembly, as against a general election at a longer interval.

I may mention, in connection with this subject, that Khaïreddin Pasha, in a conversation I had with him yesterday, dwelt strongly upon the greater results which would have flowed from the Turkish Parliament if it had undergone re-election, because the electoral machinery would have been better understood at the second election than at the first, and better men would have been returned.

In regard to another point which may not appear clear, I wish to explain that the determination of the period for which the members of the "Conseil d'Administration," elected by the Council-General, are to sit, is to be determined by the Council-General itself under the power it possesses by Article 82.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 691.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 94.)
Buyukdéré, August 20, 1880.

My Lord,

AT the private meeting of the Commission held here yesterday, M. Aubaret presented the "Avis" with the Annexe relating to the position to be assigned to the mountain tribes within the Sandjak of Scutari. The "Avis" is a revised edition of my draft and of M. Aubaret's summary of the new law. It was accepted by all the Commissioners except M. Hitrovo, who announced early in the discussion that in the first place he disputed the competence of the Commission to suggest such an organization as that proposed in the Annexe; and that further he denied the opportuneness of it, as in his opinion the plan leant unduly to a predominance of the Roman Catholic element, and seemed to him altogether premature in dealing with a subject with which the Commission was imperfectly acquainted. The Russian Commissioner appearing determined to stand by these propositions, the French Commissioner said he was ready at once to separate the portion relating to Albania, with the Annexe, from the remainder of the "Avis," and having made it into a Declaration, to invite those Commissioners to sign it who wished to do so, and then insert it on the last *compte-rendu*. The Austro-Hungarian, German, and Italian Commissioners immediately expressed their concurrence in this proposal. I thereupon made a strong appeal to the Commissioners to attempt to preserve to the end that complete unanimity which had hitherto existed. It was, I said, true that if the proposition of the French Commissioner was accepted, the "Avis" would be unanimous; but it would be infinitely better if the recommendations about Albania could be unanimous too, and inserted in it. On the points at issue I could not, I added, understand the arguments which disputed the competence of the Commission. On the other hand, I felt there was great force in the argument that the Commission had better take time to consider the question further, more especially as it was about to adjourn. On the other hand, if Albania as a whole was to be excluded, as suggested by M. Hitrovo, from the operation of the new law, it would be necessary to define Albania, which was now only a geographical expression. This was no doubt possible; but, having gone carefully into the matter, I knew the difficulties. I was also, I explained, very anxious, if I could, not to separate myself from the majority of my colleagues on this subject, as the decision arrived at in regard to the Greek Islands was, I knew, mainly accepted out of deference to my opinions. I would therefore consent to join in the Declaration if certain inaccuracies which I could point out in the Annexe (viz., those mentioned in my despatch No. 89 of the 19th instant) were removed; if some expressions, however moderate, pointing in the direction of a large Albania were inserted, and if the privileges of the mountain districts outside Upper Albania, especially in the Chimarra, were more clearly reserved than they were in the present Declaration. Otherwise, I should hand in a separate Declaration. I hoped that my Russian colleague would accept the same terms.

A long conversation ensued. Ultimately the other Commissioners accepted my

propositions. M. Hitrovo however said that, having no instructions to justify his acceptance either of my propositions or any others, he could not meet my wishes, though much regretting his inability to do so. The Annexe was thereupon separated from the "Avis" and attached to a declaration which will be signed by the German, French, Austro-Hungarian, Italian, and British Commissioners, and will be inserted on the last *compte-rendu*. The words relating to Albania are the following:—

"Should the Porte deem it advisable to unite all the Albanian districts into one vilayet, the Undersigned would see no objection to the adoption of such a plan."

The action of M. Hitrovo was quite unexpected by me, as he had frequently told me that his personal views were identical with my own—which I believe they are—and that his instructions left him unfettered. I can, therefore, only suppose that he has quite recently received fresh instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 692.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 95.)
Buyukdéré, August 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE a memorial from the Greek Islands in regard to the work of the Commission, received this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure in No. 692.

Memorial addressed to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

Excellence,

LES Iles Sporades du sud de l'Archipel Ottoman, savoir: Astypalée, Calymnos, Cassos, Castellorizo, Dilo, Khalki, Léro, Nicaria, Nissyro, Patmos, Rhôdes et Symi, habitées par une population de presque 80,000 âmes, sont pour la plupart, sauf Rhôdes, des rochers arides et pierreux qui n'ont même point d'eau potable.

Ces îles jouissaient d'une administration autonome depuis la conquête Ottomane jusqu'en 1869, grâce à la magnanimité et à l'esprit éminemment politique des glorieux Sultans, qui ont voulu en favoriser le repeuplement. Ainsi affranchies de toute imposition sur les importations et exportations, elles ne devaient payer au Gouvernement Impérial qu'une modique somme déterminée et payable annuellement. Cette immunité mettait à même leurs habitants de pourvoir à leur subsistance par un travail misérable et périlleux, par la pêche des éponges pour Calymnos, Khalki, Symi, et Castellorizo, par le cabotage pour Cassos et Castellorizo, et par la culture des terres arides et pierreuses pour Astypalée, Léro, Patmos, Nissuro, Nicaria, et Dilo.

Grâce à l'autonomie dont elles jouissaient, et à des efforts surhumains, elles ont pu devenir habitables, et la population bravant les écueils et les requins, tranquille et fidèle au Gouvernement Impérial, parvenait à grand'peine à se procurer le strict nécessaire à la vie.

Cette existence misérable, décrite par les voyageurs et par les auteurs qui ont écrit sur les Sporades, tels que le Hollandais Dapper, Journefort, Lacroix, &c., a duré jusqu'en 1869. Depuis cette époque feu Kaiserli Ahmet Pacha, ne tenant aucun compte des raisons qui militaient en faveur de cette situation exceptionnelle, a aboli les privilèges octroyés par les Sultans, et a appliqué le système créé par la Loi des Vilayets.

Dès lors, malgré les promesses officielles données de revenir à l'état primitif, les privilèges n'ont pas été rétablis, et diverses autorités administratives et judiciaires ont été installées; des impôts variés ont été exigés et perçus au détriment des îles, impôts qui ont absorbé un reste de vitalité. La seule industrie pour la plupart des îles—la pêche d'éponges—a été ruinée, le produit ne pouvant plus couvrir les frais et les impôts, tandis que les revenus perçus par le Gouvernement servent à l'entretien de fonctionnaires inutiles au pays et à l'autorité centrale. Les habitants ne pouvant plus vivre ont commencé à émigrer en Asie Mineure et en Grèce, dans l'espoir de se procurer à titre de mendiants le pain nécessaire.

A l'appui de ce qui précède, il suffirait de dire à titre d'exemple que l'Ile de Calymnos payant avant 1869 la somme 350*l.*, vend ce qu'elle a aujourd'hui pour pouvoir payer 6,000*l.*, perçues comme suit :—

	£
1. Pour impôt (Emiri d'éponges) même pêchées à des mers étrangères	3,500
2. Importation et exportation	1,000
3. Impôt fixe Maktou	450
4. Timbre	500
5. Droits de vente, de justice, &c.	500
Total	5,950

Il en est de même des Iles de Symi, Khalki, &c.

Ainsi les Soussignés, habitants des Iles Sporades du sud se trouvant placés entre les deux termes de cette alternative : ou rester dans le pays natal et y mourir de faim, ou émigrer à l'étranger, ont pris la résolution de s'adresser à votre Excellence et de profiter de la présence à Constantinople de la Commission Européenne de Réformes pour porter à sa connaissance : que ces îles sont habitées exclusivement par des Chrétiens tranquilles et fidèles sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ; qu'elles ne peuvent exister sans être affranchies de tous les impôts ; que la population est résolue à émigrer, et enfin que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne tire aucun profit des charges onéreuses qu'il lui impose. En conséquence, ils prennent la liberté de demander :—

1. Le retour au *statu quo ante* 1869, l'administration des îles par des démarques indigènes et par des Conseils Municipaux, élus librement d'après un Statut Organique.

2. Un Statut Organique définissant (*a*) les droits et les devoirs des autorités des îles ; (*b*) le respect des us et coutumes ; (*c*) l'adoption de Codes d'Arménopoulo comme Code Civil, sauf les modifications réclamées par les coutumes ; (*d*) l'adoption de la procédure en vigueur actuellement en Crète pour les Tribunaux ; (*e*) l'adoption du Grec comme langue officielle, vu que les habitants ne connaissent aucune autre langue ; (*f*) l'établissement de Tribunaux réguliers présidés par des jurisconsultes, et fonctionnant d'après le Statut Organique et la procédure ordinaire ; (*g*) la nomination d'employés professant le même culte que les habitants, et connaissant le Grec ; (*h*) l'affranchissement de tous impôts et autres contributions sur les éponges, et le paiement d'une redevance annuelle fixe, comme avant 1869 ; (*i*) la convocation d'un Conseil Général au siège du Gouvernement, Conseil composé de représentants de toutes les îles à l'effet de délibérer sur les intérêts généraux ; (*j*) la formation d'une Cour d'Appel au siège du Gouvernement insulaire pour se prononcer sur les affaires jugées par les Tribunaux de Première Instance.

3. La réunion de toutes les îles en un département, dont le siège serait dans l'île la plus centrale et indépendant de tout autre département de l'Asie Mineure.

4. L'usage des revenus de chaque île principalement pour ses propres besoins.

5. La police et la gendarmerie indigènes, entretenues aux frais de chaque île.

Telles sont, Excellence, nos humbles demandes dont dépend notre salut. Nous aimons à espérer qu'elles seront accueillies avec bienveillance, grâce à la bonté notoire et toute paternelle de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Hamid II, notre gracieux Souverain, et au concours généreux des Puissances Européennes qui ont institué la Commission pour le bien-être des populations Orientales.

Dans cet espoir, nous avons, &c.

Par procuration :
Le Délegué des Iles Sporades du Sud,
(Signé) MILT. CARAVOKYRO.

Constantinople, le 2 Août, 1880 (v.s.).

No. 693.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 96. Confidential.)

Buyukdéré, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

THE last meeting of the Commission took place to-day. The new law was signed by all the Commissioners, including the Turkish, who, however, renewed their reservations on those Articles on which they had differed from their colleagues.

The Commissioners of the Powers then handed in the collective declaration,

with the general drift of which I have already acquainted your Lordship, and which is herewith inclosed (see Inclosure No. 1).

The Commissioners of Germany, Austro-Hungary, France, Great Britain, and Italy next handed in a joint declaration about Albania, accepting the memorandum relating to the Sandjak of Scutari, prepared by the Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret, and recommending it to the attention of the Porte (see Inclosure No. 2), and dealing also with other parts of the same subject. As I informed your Lordship by telegraph, I had every reason to believe yesterday that this declaration also would be unanimous, as the Russian Commissioner, in the course of the day, had informed me that he could accept it under special instructions, which he had only just received from St. Petersburgh, on condition that at the same time he made a reservation as to the statistics in the memorandum. I informed him that it was my intention to make such a reservation in any case, and it was agreed between us that he should accordingly sign both the declaration and the reservations, a copy of which I showed him, and at his request amended in some details. Later in the evening, however, he called on me to say that M. de Novikoff strongly objected to this course, and that it was practically impossible for him to abide by it, though he would consider the question further. This morning he informed me that he would neither sign nor refuse to sign the declaration, but should reserve his liberty to communicate further with his Government, and inform the President of the Commission of the result. This, at least, for the moment, is tantamount to a refusal to sign, and will certainly be generally so understood.

I consider this intervention of the Russian Ambassador at the last moment most unfortunate.

It has destroyed at the last minute that harmony which has existed among the Commissioners, and has produced a very bad effect. It is difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile M. Hitrovo's statements with one another, as he said at the Commission to-day that he had received no instructions whatever. The real state of the matter is that his original instructions—which I have seen, and since which he has received none—gave him nothing but general directions ; that he regretted his hasty refusal to join the other Commissioners, and was glad to be able to find a way of retreating from a false position. Unfortunately, the Russian Ambassador prevented his retreat, by making him afraid he would be thrown over at St. Petersburgh.

Notwithstanding this change of front on the part of M. Hitrovo, I handed in my reservations on the statistics in the memorandum. They stated that no statistics worth quoting in an official document existed, and that this being so, it was premature to say that the Bash Captan must necessarily be a Roman Catholic. I also made reservations as to the territories which might be in dispute under the Treaty of Berlin. M. Hitrovo having asked to sign these reservations I consented to his doing so, but he also handed in a separate declaration of his own, entering into his reasons for reserving his decision on the declaration of the five Commissioners. I inclose a copy of the declaration made by M. Hitrovo and myself, and shall send your Lordship a copy of M. Hitrovo's separate declaration at the same time as the *compte-rendu* of the sitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 693.

Annexe No. 1 au Compte-rendu de la Seizième Séance.

Déclaration Collective.

A CONSTANTINOPLE, le Lundi, 23 Août, 1880, et pendant la seizième séance :

En apposant leur signature au Projet de Règlement révisé par eux, les Commissaires Soussignés croient devoir constater que le susdit Règlement a été mis en discussion et voté, bien que la Sublime Porte ne se soit pas strictement conformée à l'Article XXIII du Traité du Berlin, car, au lieu de nommer des Commissions Spéciales, comme il y est dit, c'est la Sublime Porte, elle-même, qui a élaboré un Projet de Règlement, qu'elle a plus tard soumis à des Commissions Spéciales pour que, par elles, le susdit Projet fût amendé.

Mais les Commissaires Ottomans ayant expliqué que leur Gouvernement avait agi de la sorte pour venir en aide aux Commissions Spéciales et leur faciliter ainsi

une tâche qui eût été au-dessus de leurs moyens, les Soussignés ont accepté la discussion ainsi que la révision du Règlement et des amendements des dites Commissions qui l'accompagnaient.

A ce Règlement ont été apportées telles modifications et additions qui ont paru nécessaires pour accorder aux provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, dans une large mesure, le bienfait d'une décentralisation administrative sans toutefois ébranler en rien l'autorité et l'unité de l'Empire Ottoman.

Le nouveau Règlement débute par assurer à tous les habitants sans distinction, les droits primordiaux qui doivent régner et être respectés dans toute société. La liberté individuelle et la liberté de conscience en sont la principale base. On s'est particulièrement attaché dans ces articles fondamentaux à ramener parmi les populations si cruellement éprouvées de l'Empire la paix et la sécurité personnelle.

Passant ensuite au Chef de l'Administration, le Vali, on a rendu plus stable la situation de ce haut fonctionnaire, et tout en affermissant son autorité, on lui a tracé les devoirs de sa charge, afin qu'étant connus de tous, ils ne puissent plus être transgressés.

Après le Vali, venaient naturellement les fonctionnaires qui forment son Conseil de chaque jour, et de qui dépendent les branches principales de l'Administration.

Une règle nouvelle et tutélaire a été introduite au sujet du Mustéchar, véritable Lieutenant du Vali; il a été dit que ces deux fonctionnaires n'appartiendront pas à la même religion. Loin de voir en cela une marque de défiance, il faut y chercher une preuve du large esprit de tolérance et de conciliation dont se sont constamment inspirés les Soussignés.

Cette règle a été suivie jusqu'aux Chefs des cazas, les Caïmacams.

Après avoir tracé les devoirs de chacun des principaux fonctionnaires de la province, le Règlement passe à l'important Chapitre des Conseils Généraux, de leur composition et de leurs attributions. C'est ici surtout que se développent les larges libertés seules capables de donner aux provinces un nouvel essort en les appelant à la vie administrative. Mais les Soussignés, désireux de maintenir un juste et sage équilibre entre les provinces et le pouvoir central, n'ont point accepté la Commission Permanente dont il est question au Projet Ottoman. Ils ont pensé que, loin de laisser s'établir un antagonisme entre les deux pouvoirs, il convenait de les rapprocher, afin qu'une mutuelle confiance présidât à la marche journalière du Gouvernement. C'est pourquoi, rejetant la Commission Permanente qui émanait directement du seul Conseil Général, ils l'ont fondue dans le Conseil d'Administration appelé à la remplacer.

Le Chapitre des Finances a été l'objet du soin le plus attentif. Il fallait éviter deux écueils: ou l'absorption des revenus par l'Etat, ou son appauvrissement au seul avantage de la province. Les ressources de celle-ci ont, dans une sage mesure, été distribuées en deux parts. Celle qui revient à l'Etat est naturellement prépondérante, mais en revanche l'Etat assure la marche régulière de l'Administration Provinciale, et outre cette assurance, il la dote suffisamment pour lui permettre d'avancer dans la voie de la civilisation. Enfin les garanties données à la province pour la gestion de ses finances constituent pour elle la plus précieuse des libertés.

Les subdivisions administratives font suite à ce Chapitre. Les anciennes dénominations si connues des populations de l'Empire, ont été conservées, et leurs Chefs, les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams, trouveront, dans les plus petits détails, les règles de conduite qui doivent les diriger.

Les Conseils d'Administration des livas et des cazas, calqués sur celui du chef-lieu de la province, aideront à répandre partout l'esprit de bonne administration et de confiance, dont la recherche a toujours inspiré les Soussignés.

Les Communautés jouent un grand rôle dans la vie de l'Orient; l'esprit religieux qui les anime en fait des êtres moraux dont l'influence est considérable. Elles ne pouvaient être oubliées dans le Règlement, aussi y occupent-elles un Chapitre spécial.

Il en est de même des Cercles Municipaux. Dans quelques villes de la Turquie on leur doit de notables améliorations; il est à désirer que cette institution se propage.

La commune (nahié) est à la fois la base géographique, juridique, et administrative de la province. On a précieusement conservé, en l'élargissant, cet esprit local des communes qui donne tant de cohésion et de stabilité à l'Empire. Le droit des majorités a été non-seulement respecté, mais notablement agrandi. C'est ici une œuvre de pacification et c'est pourquoi les Soussignés y ont apporté tous leurs soins.

De la commune descendant au village, le Règlement consacre l'antique institution du Conseil des Anciens et donne les indications nécessaires pour le rattacher à celui de la commune et de là à l'Administration Générale.

Le principe électif étant la base du Gouvernement nouveau, il fallait s'assurer d'un système électoral où la simplicité trouvât de sérieuses garanties. C'est ce qui a été fait dans le Chapitre relatif aux Elections. On y trace leur mécanisme, leur date précise, tous les détails enfin capables d'aider des populations nouvellement appelées à la vie publique.

L'organisation des Tribunaux,* et leur fonctionnement a été l'objet de nombreuses discussions. Les Soussignés se sont arrêtés au système qui leur a paru le plus simple et le plus apte à assurer aux populations le bienfait si désirable d'une justice prompte et impartiale. Le principe nouveau des Justices de Paix abrégera bien des causes, et les instances, jadis si nombreuses, s'en trouveront diminuées.

Les Chapitres qui traitent de l'Instruction Publique et des Cultes viennent ensuite et ils sont suivis des dispositions particulièrement relatives aux fonctionnaires, à leur choix, comme aux règles spéciales qui régissent leurs manquements.

Il convenait enfin de clore cet ensemble en lui donnant l'assurance qui fonctionnerait dans un milieu paisible. Or, en un pays tourmenté comme l'a été la Turquie d'Europe, rien n'était plus nécessaire que de créer une force publique, respectable et capable d'assurer à chacun sa propre sécurité; ce besoin de premier ordre sera satisfait par l'institution de la gendarmerie et de la police, qui termine le Règlement et surtout par la bonne application de cette mesure.

Tel est l'ensemble des dispositions du nouveau Règlement. Les Soussignés ont dû se préoccuper de son application dans les provinces auxquelles il est destiné. Et d'abord se présentait la question de savoir s'il est réellement applicable à toutes les parties de la Turquie d'Europe. Les Soussignés ont reconnu d'un commun accord que certaines parties de l'Albanie ne pouvaient être soumises à la règle commune.

Quant au reste de la Turquie d'Europe, les Soussignés considèrent que la ville de Constantinople et sa banlieue sont seules placées en dehors de l'application administrative du nouveau Règlement, mais ils insistent pour que les droits primordiaux qui font l'objet du titre premier soient entièrement accordés et assurés aux habitants de la capitale et de sa banlieue.

Les Soussignés sont d'avis que le Règlement nouveau peut être également introduit dans le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar. Il s'entend toutefois que les droits politiques et militaires acquis par le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie, en conformité du Traité de Berlin et de la Convention conclue le 21 Avril, 1879, entre l'Autriche-Hongrie et le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, restent intégralement maintenus ainsi que les arrangements survenus entre les autorités des deux Gouvernements ayant pour objet le service de la sécurité publique à la frontière entre les Sandjaks de Novi-Bazar et la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine.

Les Soussignés considérant enfin que le vilayet des Iles de l'Archipel "Djézaïri-Bahri Sofid" étant par sa situation géographique placé à la fois en Europe et en Asie, sont d'avis que le nouveau Règlement devrait être appliqué à tout son ensemble.

Les districts auxquels le présent Règlement s'appliquera devront être réunis en vilayets ou en Mutessarilliks indépendants. Le susdit Règlement devant en outre établir dans chacun de ces Gouvernements une Administration organisée et un Conseil Général représentatif avec des pouvoirs étendus et un système régulier pour la perception des revenus et pour la comptabilité, les Soussignés sont d'avis que la Sublime Porte devrait poser leurs limites sur une base solide et permanente ayant regard seulement aux besoins de l'Administration et d'éviter ainsi les changements devenus si fréquents dans ces derniers temps.

Une grande responsabilité, d'après le nouveau Règlement, retombera sur les Valis et Mutessarifs auxquels on a accordé une puissante initiative. Il est donc de la plus grande importance que ces hauts fonctionnaires soient choisis parmi ceux qui seront les plus disposés à assurer la réussite du système d'administration qu'ils seront appelés à diriger.

Les bonnes lois n'ont jamais manqué dans l'Empire Ottoman, mais c'est leur exécution qui presque toujours a fait défaut.

Avant de suspendre leurs travaux, les Soussignés se permettent de recommander leur œuvre à la protection des Hautes Puissances qu'ils ont eu l'honneur de représenter,

* *Nota.*—Relativement aux droits et immunités dont jouissent les étrangers dans l'Empire, il demeure entendu que parmi ces droits est maintenu celui en vertu duquel sont admis des Assesseurs étrangers au Tribunal du Liva, compétent en lieu et place du Tribunal de Commerce Mixte, dans toute cause commerciale ou civile entre sujets étrangers et sujets Ottomans.

et ils espèrent qu'il en ressortira un résultat heureux pour les populations des provinces comme pour la sécurité et la paix de l'Empire Ottoman.

C'est là le but de leurs efforts.

Fait à Constantinople les mois, jour, et an que dessus.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.
HITROVO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 693.

Annexe No. 2 au Compte-rendu de la Seizième Séance.

Déclaration faite par MM. les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et d'Italie.

A CONSTANTINOPLE, le Lundi, 23 Août, 1880, et pendant la seizième séance.

Les Soussignés déclarent que :—

En ce qui concerne les pays Albanais, ils acceptent le mémorandum ci-joint, sur le Sandjak de Scutari, présenté par MM. le Baron de Kosjek et Aubaret, et ils en recommandent les dispositions à la Sublime Porte.

Les Soussignés désirent aussi que le Gouvernement Impérial, en introduisant le nouveau Règlement dans les autres pays de l'Albanie, tienne compte également des immunités dont les districts montagneux, en dehors du Sandjak de Scutari, seraient *ab antiquo* en possession, et notamment des immunités de la Chimara.

Si, en outre, la Sublime Porte trouvait opportun de réunir les pays Albanais en un seul vilayet, les Soussignés n'y verraient aucune objection.

Fait à Constantinople les jours, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KOSJEK.
AUBARET.
ED. FITZMAURICE.
VERNONI.

Mémorandum sur le Sandjak de Scutari (Albanie).

[See Inclosure in Lord E. Fitzmaurice's No. 89 (No. 2) in Section 5 of August 31.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 693.

Déclaration faite par MM. les Commissaires de Grande Bretagne et de Russie.

A CONSTANTINOPLE, le Lundi, 23 Août, 1880, et pendant la seizième séance.

Les Soussignés, vu le mémorandum présenté par MM. le Baron de Kosjek et Aubaret, font leurs réserves sur les chiffres indiquant la proportion de la population par religion, vu que selon eux les renseignements exacts font défaut. En conséquence ils font aussi leurs réserves sur l'Article où il est dit que le Bach Captan devra nécessairement être Catholique Romain, et pensent que les vœux des populations devraient être préalablement entendus sur cette question.

Les Soussignés font aussi leurs réserves sur tous les territoires qui pourraient être en litige et faire l'objet de négociations entre les Représentants des Puissances et le Gouvernement Ottoman par suite du Traité de Berlin.

(Signé) ED. FITZMAURICE.
HITROVO.

No. 694.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord, *Buyukdéré, August* 24, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 12 of the 26th May, I informed your Lordship that I intended to object to the immediate application of the new law to the Vilayets of Kossovo, of Scutari, and of Janina, on the ground that the circumstances of those districts required separate consideration, as they were principally, though not entirely, inhabited by Albanians.

In my despatch No. 22 of the 12th June, I pointed out that owing to recent alterations in the vilayets, a considerable Albanian population was also included in the Vilayet of Monastir. On the 26th June the Commission, on my motion, decided that, in approaching the discussion of the new law, it reserved its right to decide at a future time whether some of the provinces might not have to be excepted from its operation. These steps met with your Lordship's approval.

On the 23rd July I informed your Lordship by telegraph that the work of the Commission was advancing rapidly; that consequently the question of Albania would probably before long be reached, and that I should be glad to be informed if Her Majesty's Government had any special instructions to give on the subject. I further called your Lordship's attention to the analogy of the Lebanon Règlement of the 9th June, 1861, as giving the Commission a right to express an opinion on the subject of the delimitation of the province, and I suggested the formation of four provinces, with their centres respectively at Scutari, Prisrend, Elbassan, and Berat, or Argyrocastro, with a view to their union at a future date into a large Albania; the mountain privileges of Upper Albania to be at the same time carefully reserved.

On the 27th July, in my despatch No 68, I expressed the opinion that the new law could be at once applied to the Prisrend district, but that local Commissions ought to be called at Scutari, Elbassan, and Berat, or Argyrocastro, to propose a draft plan in accordance with Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty; and I pointed out a few particulars in which I thought the government of Albania should differ from that of the other provinces.

In reply to these communications, your Lordship informed me that you had asked Mr. Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, for suggestions, and were awaiting the views of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople (telegrams Nos. 5 and 6 of the 26th and 30th July); and shortly after your Lordship forwarded to me a copy of a telegram from Mr. Green referring me to his previous despatches for his views on the proper course to be pursued.

On the 29th July, after having made myself acquainted with these despatches, I telegraphed to your Lordship that Mr. Green appeared to agree with me in my views about the Prisrend district, but did not appear to think the new law inapplicable elsewhere in Albania, or that local Commissions were necessary at the other points mentioned, except perhaps at Scutari, for which, however, he had devised a special plan; while M. Aubaret, my French colleague, who has a very intimate knowledge of the country, did not think a local Commission to be necessary even at Scutari, before the European Commission could proceed further; and that, in principle, he recommended for adoption the scheme drawn up for the Sandjak of Scutari by Mr. Green, with the help of his Austro-Hungarian colleague, M. Lippich. Though not altogether agreeing in this view, I said I did not like to set my opinion against that of those who possessed a good local knowledge of the district, I should therefore be satisfied if the Albanian district generally could be separated from the others and formed into distinct Governments with a view to the ultimate formation of a large Albanian vilayet, while special provisions could be made for Scutari and in regard to the mountain tribes generally.

On the 1st instant I informed your Lordship by telegraph that my colleagues seemed very averse to any plan relating to Albania which involved delay in the consideration of the subject, but that I was hopeful they might accept the suggestions of my telegram of the 29th July.

On the 6th instant I made some further criticism on Mr. Green's plan, pointing out that there were, in my opinion, considerable risks in attempting to define the mountain privileges, as definition might be interpreted to mean restriction, and that I should bear this in mind in considering the subject.

On the 9th instant I informed your Lordship that my colleagues seemed getting impatient, and that I thought that, with a view to success, the sooner I was allowed to proceed the better. On the same day your Lordship wrote to me that my views

relating to the Peisreud district met with your Lordship's approval, and on the 10th your Lordship, having received my telegram of the 9th, directed me to proceed at once. On the 14th instant, in my despatch No. 83, I informed your Lordship that Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret had presented a plan for the Province of Scutari, substantially identical with that of Mr. Green, and I inclosed a draft Report, circulated by myself, recommending the formation of four independent Mutessarifliks, with a view to their ultimate union in one large Albanian vilayet, and the reservation of the privilege of the mountain tribes, beyond as well as within the Province of Scutari.

On the 17th I informed your Lordship by telegraph that the Commissioners would not accept my views about a large Albania, but had agreed in principle to the plan for Upper Albania brought forward by Baron de Kosjek and M. Aubaret.

In my despatch No. 89 of the 19th instant I informed your Lordship that, on examining the above plan in detail, it seemed to me open to the objections mentioned in my telegram of the 6th, and that there were certain inaccuracies which must in any case be removed before it could be consented to. I also said that its terms justified me in reopening the question of the large Albania.

On the 21st instant I was able to inform your Lordship that the Commissioners of the Powers, with the exception of M. Hitrovo, had agreed to a recommendation about a large Albania, though in a very guarded and moderate form, and to the reservation of the privileges of the mountains beyond as well as within the Sandjak of Scutari, and had removed the inaccuracies alluded to above. I consequently desired to join in the Declaration.

On the 22nd August I informed your Lordship that M. Hitrovo had received instructions which enabled him to join also, and that unanimity consequently existed among the Commissioners. On the 23rd I informed your Lordship that, in consequence of the interference of the Russian Ambassador, M. Hitrovo had been obliged to abandon his intention of signing the Declaration.

On the 23rd instant, at their last meeting, the Commissioners of the Powers unanimously advised the Porte that the new law was not applicable to certain parts of Albania. The same Commissioners also, with the exception of M. Hitrovo, handed in the Declaration and Annex relating to Albania, copies of which are inclosed in my despatch No. 96, while, at the same time, I made a separate Declaration, containing reservations as to the accuracy of the figures relating to the proportions of the different religious communities mentioned in the Annex, and also in regard to any territories which might be in dispute under the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 695.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord,
Bunjaléré, August 24, 1880.

I REGRET to inform your Lordship that Colonel Blunt, who commands the gendarmerie at Adrianople, and to whose energy the district is so much indebted, informs me that since the departure of Réouf Pasha, all the abuses against which he successfully contended are again rampant.

I may add that the appointment of the notorious Ahmed Eyoub Pasha to the military command of the district will certainly not tend to improve matters. Many of the Beys, it appears, illuminated their houses the night of Réouf's departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 696.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 499.)
My Lord,
Vienna, August 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Austrian Government will authorize Baron Calice to sign the rejoinder to the Turkish note on the Greek frontier question, of which the draft was conveyed in your Lordship's telegram to Mr. Goschen No. 415,

and which I had communicated to M. Kállay. M. Kállay observed that as he had not an English cypher, he would have to send his instructions to the Ambassador with your Lordship's draft by post, but they would reach Constantinople on Thursday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 697.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord,
Vienna, August 21, 1880.

I LEARN that the Austrian Government have been informed from Berlin that the Russian Ambassador there states the Prince of Montenegro to be quite indifferent to the annexation of Dinosi to the Principality.

Nevertheless M. d'Oubril to-day asked M. de Kállay whether he would agree to a proposal of his Government that Her Majesty's Government should prepare an answer to the Turkish note respecting the cession of Dulcigno, in which the "sommation" already addressed to the Porte by the Powers should be repeated.

The Austrian Government, true to the line they have adopted of agreeing to everything without expressing an opinion of their own, replied that they were quite willing that Her Majesty's Government should prepare an answer in the sense proposed, if, as they supposed, the word "sommation" merely alluded to the intimation conveyed in the collective note to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 698.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 504.)
My Lord,
Vienna, August 21, 1880.

IN reply to the inquiry which I made by your Lordship's instructions, whether it would be convenient for the Imperial Government to send to Palermo the Austrian ships that are to take part in the naval demonstration, I have been informed that, the vessels being already in the Adriatic, they would prefer not to send them to a rendezvous so far off.

The Emperor puts all his ports in the Adriatic at the disposal of the allied squadrons, including the war port of Cattaro, on the understanding that as regards it this should only be regarded as an exceptional relaxation of the rule by which foreign ships of war are not admitted, but as neither coal nor provisions could be obtained at that place, it is believed that it would be more convenient if the fleet went to Spalato, which, being in the immediate vicinity of Ragusa, would be able to furnish supplies of all kinds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 699.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 506.)
My Lord,
Vienna, August 21, 1880.

IMMEDIATELY upon receiving your Lordship's despatch inclosing the draft of the instructions proposed to be given to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, I communicated the substance of it to M. de Kállay, and asked whether he would cause similar instructions to be given to the Austro-Hungarian naval Commander.

He said that every question of military character must be in the first instance submitted to the Emperor and His Majesty's military advisers, but he has to-day informed me that the Imperial Government, while generally approving of the instructions proposed by your Lordship, would wish to introduce into them some modifications and additions, which they are forwarding by post to their Chargé d'Affaires.

With regard to the question of the Commander-in-chief of the united squadrons, M. de Kállay expressed no distinct opinion as to whether it should be intrusted to the senior flag officer, as he did not know upon whom an arrangement of that nature might confer it, and the Austro-Hungarian Government were most desirous that the expedition should be under the British Admiral.

They consider it essential both for the safety of the ships, and for the success of any operation undertaken, that in all military matters the authority of the Commander-in-chief should be absolute, the other Commanders being bound to follow his directions in regard to them; and that it should only be necessary for him to consult them upon other questions of a political character.

The Imperial Government will suggest an alteration in the proposal in your Lordship's instructions that the Admiral upon arriving off Dulcigno should invite the "nearest Turkish authorities" to join in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession of the place, for it is probable that no Turkish official of rank or position may be found at or near Dulcigno, and they think that as the district is in the jurisdiction of Scutari, the Vali should be called upon to proceed himself, or to send an officer of sufficient rank and authority, to give up the place.

M. de Kállay further thinks that the instructions should contain a provision for the guidance of the Admiral in the event of its being found that the Prince of Montenegro was not prepared with a sufficient force to take possession of the district when the ships arrive on the coast, the Powers having only undertaken to assist the Prince in obtaining possession of the territory assigned to him, and not having assumed the task of taking it for him themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 700.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 510. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 23, 1880.

My Lord,

FROM the sketch given of it to your Lordship by Mr. Adams in his despatch No. 706, Secret, M. de Freycinet's policy appears in all its essential features to be as nearly as possible the same as that of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I believe that they, like M. de Freycinet, will join thoroughly with the other Powers in any step not leading to war that may be decided upon in common; like him they consider that the only chance of bringing the present critical questions to a pacific and satisfactory issue lies in the complete accord and identic action of the Six Powers, while they also seem determined to take no initiative whatever.

But on the other hand, they do not share, and have never entertained, M. de Freycinet's belief in the Turks giving way before actual force is employed against them, and, though they are cautious in expressing themselves, they appear to attribute much of the embarrassment that they apprehend to M. de Freycinet himself, for having advocated a demand upon Turkey for sacrifices larger than they thought her likely to submit to.

I have already informed your Lordship that the Austrian Government were perplexed, not to say rendered suspicious, by the appearance of hesitation on the part of France with regard to the naval demonstration; but the time may not be very distant when, if mere diplomatic pressure or mere naval demonstrations are insufficient to induce the Porte to yield, it will be found impossible to obtain their own concurrence in further measures.

The Turks are not without grounds for the calculation, which they appear to be making, that, if by a passive resistance they provoke some of the Powers into proposing active coercion, there are others which would refuse to join in it.

The Turkish Ambassador cannot have left his Government so ignorant of the state of public opinion in this country as to allow them to feel much apprehension of Austria engaging in a war with Turkey for the sake of Greece, and he will not have failed to point out that the agreement between Austria and Germany seems closer than ever.

Though it is impossible that the Austrian Government should not feel the unsatisfactory position in which they will be placed, if they remain inactive before a refusal of Turkey to comply with a demand which they joined the other Powers in making, this consideration will not, in my opinion, induce them to take part in measures that they may think likely

to lead to the break-up of an Empire for the maintenance of which they are anxious, or to embark in hostilities for an object in which they have no direct interest.

They will in all probability recommend the course which Prince Hohenlohe stated to Lord Odo Russell that he personally thought the best, and while maintaining the award of the Berlin Conference would leave its realization to be developed by time and circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 701.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 512.)
Vienna, August 26, 1880.

My Lord,

LORD DUFFERIN has informed your Lordship that the Emperor of Russia considers Austria to a great extent responsible for a prevailing but unfounded suspicion that Russia had been encouraging a unionist movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

The Austro-Hungarian Government certainly do believe Russia to have been doing all in her power to put Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia into a state of preparation for such a movement, for although Count Kalnocky has received the same assurances on this subject as have been given to Her Majesty's Ambassador, they are so well aware of the system under which, as Lord Dufferin lately pointed out to your Lordship, the Russian Agents are constantly found to be acting in opposition to the principles announced by the responsible Minister, that they judge of the policy of the Russian Government rather by what they see of its acts than by the official language held at St. Petersburgh.

Even the declarations of the Emperor Alexander of his wish to maintain the arrangements of the Treaty of Berlin fail to inspire the confidence which they might do if it were not remembered that the arms and supplies, of which there has latterly been so much talk, had been conveyed up the Danube in the vessels given by His Majesty himself to the Prince of Bulgaria to be kept in the river in direct contravention of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 702.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 514. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 27, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE KÁLLAY informs me that the Italian Government had intimated that, although they had already expressed their approval of the instructions which your Lordship proposed for the Admirals employed in the naval demonstration, they willingly concur in the modifications suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

The report he had received from Paris was not so satisfactory; for the French Government, while abstaining from a refusal to take part in the demonstration, attached to their consent conditions calculated greatly to impair its efficacy.

They object to allow a Commander-in-chief to have any authority over the other Admirals, with whom every measure would have to be discussed, and who, in the event of their disgreeing with him, would be authorized to refer to their Governments.

They proposed to define the purely naval character of the demonstration so closely as to limit most injuriously the assistance to be afforded to the Prince of Montenegro, and as soon as Dulcigno was known to be in the hands of the Montenegrins, the ships were at once to leave the coast without reference to what might be taking place with regard to other parts of the frontier, and in addition to this the French contingent would not be at Toulon, previous to proceeding to the rendezvous, before the 6th September.

Your Lordship is no doubt in possession of the precise conditions attached by the French Government to their participation in this operation, but I have thought it right to report M. de Kállay's account of them.

He showed little disposition to acquiesce in them, but when I asked whether, if it

was proposed to carry out the demonstration in the absence of a French contingent, the Austrian Government would take part in it, he said the question was much too important for him to venture to express an opinion in the absence of Baron Haymerle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 703.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 792.)
My Lord, *Paris, August* 30, 1880.

BARON DE COURCEL told me this afternoon, in answer to my inquiry, that the French contingent for the naval demonstration off Dulcigno would proceed from Toulon either to Palermo or to Gravosa (Ragusa) according to the orders given to the British contingent—that is, that they would go to the same rendezvous as the British vessels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 704.

M. Kallay to M. Hengelmüller.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Hengelmüller, August* 31.)

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1880.

ACCORDING to a communication made a few days ago by the British Ambassador, the British Government had proposed a reply to the note of the Porte answering to the collective note of the 3rd August, in the sense that, as the Porte no longer offers to carry out proposal within defined term, the only satisfactory proof she could give of her sincerity was the rapidity and completeness of the execution of the Dulcigno arrangement.

To-day Elliot has forwarded a despatch of Lord Granville, wherein a telegram of the Russian Government is cited as follows:—

"If British Government desires to maintain the original demand by naval demonstration the Emperor of Russia will consent to it; but if the Cabinets should prefer to ask for the immediate surrender of the town and district of Dulcigno as a proof of the sincerity of the Porte postponing the remaining part of the arrangement (Dinoschi and Gruda) to a later examination, the Emperor would be equally ready to agree. This examination could take place on the ground of the map revised by Austria."

Lord Granville thinks, in his despatch, that in order not to disturb the concert of the Powers he would be willing to accept the latter alternative, which also is in accordance with the attitude recommended by France, and he asks us whether in the redaction of the reply the word "completeness" might not be omitted.

I have answered to the British Ambassador that we agree with any form of (redaction?), but that we must expressly desire that no question—therefore that of Dinoschi and Gruda neither—should be left in suspense, but that the whole Montenegrin question should be at once and finally settled. We think that our interpretation with regard to Dinoschi and Gruda is the correct one, and must insist upon it. However, should the Powers prefer the Turkish interpretation of the Gruda territory we would in the end raise no objection against it, in order not to disturb the concert of the Powers. But one or the other must be accepted in order to carry out the Dulcigno arrangement without any question left open and remaining behind. In the reply the final decision of the Powers ought therefore to be expressed.

Sir H. Elliot will inform Lord Granville accordingly; you will on your part make the same communication to his Lordship.

No. 705.

Pro-memorid communicated by M. Hengelmüller, August 31, 1880.

(Confidential.)

WE have received the following despatch from Count Kálnoky:—

"Our explanations with regard to Dinoschi and Gruda have given much satisfaction in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here. Baron Jomini told me that in this way a final settlement in this matter will be easy. He let me understand that the Prince of Montenegro would be advised from here to accept.

"I have communicated our draft of instruction for the Commanders of the squadron, with explanatory despatch. M. de Giers had no objection against the modifications. But having already accepted English project he feels obliged, before pronouncing himself, to wait for reception which your Excellency's draft will find in London.

Belgrave Square, August 31, 1880.

No. 706.

Circular communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, August 31, 1880.

D'APRÈS les déclarations verbales faites par Abédine Pacha aux Représentants d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie à Constantinople, et communiquées par ceux-ci à leurs Gouvernements par le télégramme identique du 14 Août, la Sublime Porte était prête à exécuter l'arrangement de Dulcigno à condition que Dinoschi et Gruda restent à la Turquie.

Or, la formule adoptée dans la note responsive d'Abédine Pacha du 18 Août pour préciser la réserve sous laquelle la Porte consent en principe à la cession de Dulcigno pourrait donner lieu à la supposition que le Gouvernement Ottoman n'entend pas seulement exclure Dinoschi et Gruda du territoire qui doit être cédé au Monténégro, mais d'autres territoires encore, peut-être même la Kucka-Kraina.

D'une étude plus approfondie de la question il nous semble pourtant résulter qu'il n'y a pas de divergence réelle entre les assurances verbales données par Abédine Pacha aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople et entre le sens de sa note du 18 Août.

Il nous paraît plutôt que les deux fois Abédine Pacha s'est placé au point de vue des Délégués Ottomans dans la Commission Européenne pour la délimitation du Monténégro, qui ont toujours réclamé pour le district de Gruda une étendue plus grande que les Délégués des autres Puissances.

Dans le Protocole No. 24, p. 2, séance du 6 Septembre, 1879, de la dite Commission, nous trouvons le passage suivant:—

"La Délégation Ottomane, se conformant à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, prend à partir du Lac de Scutari, la ligne de Plavnitza, dont l'identité a été constaté sur le terrain, et passant par le moulin dit de Hadji Moukhtar, et à Voina, la fait aboutir au monticule de Boïcin, situé sur la Kakaricka-Gora, laissant intacts à l'Albanie les terrains de la tribu de Gruda."

Ce passage nous indique clairement le tracé que les Délégués Ottomans ont considéré comme la frontière du district de Gruda dans la plaine de Podgoritza. Ce tracé fut pourtant rejeté unanimement par les Délégués des autres Puissances qui, ainsi qu'il résulte des Protocoles Nos. 24 et 25 de la Commission Européenne, ont accepté comme point d'attache de la ligne de délimitation à la rive orientale du Lac de Scutari, le point où Plavnička est indiqué sur la carte Autrichienne, laquelle a servi de base à toutes les indications géographiques du Traité de Berlin, point situé 6 à 7 kilomètres à l'est du village de Plavnička, constaté sur le terrain. Ils ont en outre désigné comme frontière occidentale approximative du district de Gruda une ligne partant du Plavnička de la Carte Autrichienne, se dirigeant ensuite par les collines de Vranj vers le pont du Zem ("Rzanicki-most") et allant de ce pont le long du Zem au moulin de Rogami pour aboutir à la cime de Vojna, qui forme la partie méridionale de la Kakarička-Gora.

Pour mieux faire ressortir la différence entre ces deux tracés, la zone appartenant au district de Gruda d'après la décision de la majorité des délégués, a été coloriée en bleu clair sur la carte ci-annexée, tandis que le territoire que le tracé des Délégués Turcs ajouterait encore au dit district est colorié en rose.

C'est ce dernier tracé que la Sublime Porte paraît avoir eu en vue en se référant

dans la note du 18 Août, à la ligne de démarcation qui, du côté de Podgoritza au Lac de Scutari, résulterait de l'application sur le terrain des points indiqués dans le Traité de Berlin.

Il faut observer ici que la ligne de démarcation indiquée par les Puissances dans la proposition faite à la Porte concernant la cession de Dulcigno, ligne qui est marquée en rouge sur la carte ci-jointe, coupe en deux la partie du district de Gruda sur la rive droite du Zem, en laisse la zone méridionale à l'Albanie, et ne donne au Monténégro que la zone septentrionale, c'est-à-dire, le territoire de Dinoschi, dont l'étendue dépasse à peine 30 kilomètres carrés. Prenant en considération que l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin laisse à l'Albanie les tribus de Clementi, Grudi, et Hotti, et que la majorité de la Commission Européenne a reconnu le village de Dinoschi comme appartenant à la tribu de Grudi; vu encore la déclaration verbale d'Abédine Pacha que la Porte est prête à exécuter l'arrangement de Dulcigno pourvu que Dinoschi et Gruda restent à la Turquie, nous sommes de l'opinion que le territoire de Dinoschi pourrait être laissé à la Turquie sans inconvénient pour le Monténégro qui, se trouvant en possession de la Kucka-Kraina, domine Dinoschi par les positions plus élevées de Kakaricka-Gora et défend ainsi Podgoritza. Si les autres Cabinets partagent cette manière de voir nous proposerions de faire connaître à la Porte en réponse à sa note du 18 Août, que les Puissances, appréciant les motifs allégués par la Porte pour faire conserver le district de Gruda dans sa totalité à l'Albanie, sont disposées à accepter la réserve formulée dans la susdite note en tant qu'elle concerne Dinoschi et son territoire, en n'admettant toutefois aucune autre interprétation à l'égard de l'étendue du territoire de Gruda que celle donnée par la majorité de la Commission Européenne pour la délimitation du Monténégro.

Il est donc entendu que la ligne de démarcation à l'est du Lac de Scutari, proposée par les Puissances dans la note collective du 3 Août, sera maintenue dans tout son parcours, à l'exception du territoire de Dinoschi, tel qu'il est indiqué sur la carte ci-jointe.

En informant la Sublime Porte de cette nouvelle concession, les Puissances pourraient lui faire observer qu'en procédant immédiatement à la remise réelle des territoires que l'arrangement de Dulcigno confère au Monténégro sauf celui de Dinoschi, elle donnerait une preuve de la sincérité de ses intentions, dont les Puissances seraient tout disposées à lui tenir compte.

Neanmoins, les préparatifs pour la démonstration navale pourraient être continués afin que l'action Européenne mentionnée dans la note collective du 3 Août puisse avoir lieu dans le cas que la Porte tarde à mettre à exécution l'arrangement proposé.

Je vous prie de remettre copie de la présente dépêche, ainsi que la carte y annexée, au Cabinet de , et de m'informer le plus tôt possible de l'appréciation que cette communication y aura rencontrée.

Recevez, &c.

No. 707.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August* 30, 1880.

A LARGE Turkish iron-clad arrived here this morning from Volo.

No. 708.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 196. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 194, I have seen Minister for Foreign Affairs. He told me the Turkish plan is as follows:—

To adopt the frontier-line proposed by the Powers and communicated in the memorandum dated the 9th instant, with the exception of two points, Dinosi and a fortified post called Madagosh. The Porte hoped the latter place would be left to the Turks by the Powers, but would not insist on it as they do in the case of Dinosi, only, if refused, they hoped the surrender of Madagosh might be left for some future time.

Majority of Council of Ministers have accepted the above plan, but the Sultan's assent had not been received.

I stated that instructions to Mr. Green must in any case be deferred till Sultan's assent was communicated. The nature of the support which Mr. Green is desired to give is to use his influence with the Albanians to yield Dulcigno peaceably, but his Excellency said that more harm than good would be done unless the Consul would state at the same time that Dinosi would be left to the Albanians.

I stated that I was not in a position to authorize him to make such a statement.

(Sent to Mr. Green.)

No. 709.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 89.) *Berlin, August* 31, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 461, German Government accept your Lordship's draft instructions for naval Commander with Austrian modification.

Prince Hohenlohe says French Government has not yet accepted them.

No. 710.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 451.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1880, 5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WRITTEN orders were sent on 27th to Sir Beauchamp Seymour to proceed to Ragusa with an iron-clad and a dispatch-vessel in addition to his flag-ship.

No. 711.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.†

(No. 428.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1880, 6·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has just communicated to me the proposal of his Government on the Montenegrin frontier referred to by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram repeated to you to-day.

It explains their views as to the meaning of the Turkish answer, which they think was meant to secure for Turkey the line from the Lake of Scutari through Plavnitza originally proposed by the Turkish Delegate in the Frontier Commission.

It points out that the frontier proposed by the Powers as a portion of the Dulcigno arrangement would cut in half the Gruda district as settled by the majority of the Commissioners, and it suggests that the territory of Dinosi might be left to Turkey without inconvenience, as Montenegro, being in possession of the Kuči-Kraina, would be able to command Dinosi, and to defend Podgoritza from more elevated positions.

(The frontier would in fact be the line voted by the Commission, or on which votes were equally divided, as far as point XXVI on the Commission map, from which it would pass through Gradiste to Sukai-Gruda, and then follow the southern frontier of the Kuči-Kraina.)

Austrian Government propose answer to the Porte as follows:—That the Powers, appreciating the motives alleged by the Porte for preserving the district of Gruda in its entirety to Albania, are disposed to accept the reservation made in its note in so far as concerns Dinosi and its territory, admitting, however, no other interpretation as regards the extent of the territory of Gruda than that given by the majority of the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro. It is therefore understood that the line of demarcation to the east of the Lake of Scutari proposed by the Powers in the collective note of the 3rd August will be maintained in all its extent with the exception of the territory of Dinosi, as indicated on a map annexed to the despatch.

In informing the Porte of this new concession, the Powers might observe that

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 575), Mr. Adams (No. 427), Sir H. Elliot (No. 523), Lord Odo Russell, (No. 469), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 512).

† Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 576), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 513).

by immediately proceeding to the surrender of the territories conferred on Montenegro by the Dulcigno arrangement, the Porte would give a proof of the sincerity of its intentions, for which the Powers would be quite disposed to give it credit.

Pray ascertain what view the Government to which you are accredited takes of this proposal.

Austrian Government think the preparations for the naval demonstration should proceed all the same to provide for the case of the Porte delaying execution of the arrangement.

Germany and Her Majesty's Government are willing to agree to these arrangements if the other Powers consent.

No. 712.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 577.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me a despatch, accompanied by a map, which contained the proposal of his Government as to reply to be returned to the last communication of the Porte on the Montenegrin frontier question.

I inclose a copy of this despatch, of which I have already communicated to you the substance by telegraph (telegram No. 523).

M. Hengelmüller told me that he had received a telegram from his Government, stating that the Russian Government had received their explanations with satisfacion; that Baron Jomini thought that a final settlement of the question might be attained in the manner suggested, and had given Count Kálnoky to understand that the Prince of Montenegro would be advised by Russia to accept it.

The principal point, he said, upon which his Government laid stress was that whatever proposal was made to the Porte should provide for a definite and complete settlement of the whole question.

I told M. Hengelmüller, after some conversation, that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to accept the Austrian proposal if the other Powers agreed to it, and I said that I would communicate this decision to the several Governments.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 713.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.**

(No. 1203.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has just communicated to me the proposal of his Government in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, referred to by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram, which has already been repeated to you.

This proposal explains the views of the Austrian Government as to the meaning of the Turkish answer on the frontier question, which they consider was intended to secure for Turkey the line from the Lake of Scutari through Plavnitza, originally proposed by the Turkish Delegate in the Frontier Commission.

It points out that the frontier proposed by the Powers as a portion of the Dulcigno arrangement would cut in half the Gruda district as settled by the majority of the Commissioners, and it suggests that the territory of Dinosi might be left to Turkey without inconvenience, as Montenegro, being in possession of the Kuči-Kraina, would be able to command Dinosi, and to defend Podgoritza from more elevated positions.

(The frontier would, in fact, be the line voted by the Commission, or on which votes were equally divided as far as point 26 on the Commission map, from which it would pass through Gradiste to Sukai Gruda, and then follow the southern frontier of the Kuči-Kraina.)

The Austrian Government propose to answer the Porte as follows:—

That the Powers, appreciating the motives alleged by the Porte for preserving the district of Gruda in its entirety to Albania, are disposed to accept the reservation made in

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin and Mr. Macdonell.

its note, in so far as concerns Dinosi and its territory, admitting, however, no other interpretation as regards the extent of the territory of Gruda than that given by the majority of the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro. It is therefore understood that the line of demarcation to the east of Lake Scutari, proposed by the Powers in the collective note of the 3rd August, will be maintained in all its extent, with the exception of the territory of Dinosi, as indicated on a map annexed to this despatch.

In informing the Porte of this new concession, the Powers might observe that by immediately proceeding to the surrender of the territory conferred on Montenegro by the Dulcigno arrangement, the Porte would give a proof of the sincerity of its intentions, for which the Powers would be quite disposed to give it credit.

I have to request that you will ascertain what view the Government to which you are accredited takes of this proposal.

The Austrian Government, as Her Majesty's Government are informed, are of opinion that the preparations for the naval demonstration should proceed all the same, to provide for the case of the Porte delaying execution of the arrangement in question.

Her Majesty's Government and that of Germany are willing to agree to these arrangements if the other Powers consent also.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 714.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 549 A.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE German Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and informed me that his Government had received the last proposal from Vienna for the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier, and were ready to accept it if the other Powers would do so.

I informed Baron von den Brincken that Her Majesty's Government took the same view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 715.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to Lord Granville's letter of yesterday, I am directed by his Lordship to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires in London,* which has been communicated to him by the latter, explaining the grounds of the reservation made in the Porte's note of the 18th instant with regard to the line of frontier to be ceded on the Podgoritza side of the Lake of Scutari, and I am to request that you will move the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward a copy of this telegram to Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

* No. 578.